



RETIREE BULLETIN

U.S. Army Garrison, Redstone Arsenal - 2012 Edition



Major General Lynn A. Collyar, Senior Commander, Redstone Arsenal, and Colonel John S. Hamilton, Garrison Commander, cordially invite military retirees from ALL branches of U.S. uniformed services and their dependents, to attend Redstone Arsenal's 41st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) event, September 28-29, 2012. ** This year we've added a Golf Tournament the day prior to the RAD **

Thursday, 27 Sep 2012

 1st Annual RAD Retiree Golf Tournament
at 'The Links at Redstone'
0700 Registration, 0800 Shot Gun Start
Four Person Scramble (see insert for details)

Friday, 28 Sep 2012

-  0700 – 0900 All you can Eat Breakfast
Summit formerly the ROCC (Cost: \$9.00)
-  0700 – 1430 Retiree Health Fair and multiple
local business vendors in Summit
Ballroom (see insert for details)
-  1100 – 1300 All you can eat Lunch
(at Summit - - Cost: \$9.00)
-  1700 – 2000 German Dinner at the "Summit"
(Cost: \$14.95)



1100 – 1400 Games, Door Prizes, Refreshments
(at Commissary!)

Saturday, 29 Sep 2012

-  0630 – 0800 "Free" Breakfast
(Sparkman Cafeteria, Bldg 5304)
 -  0800 – 1500 Retiree Appreciation Day Info
Booths around Bob Jones Auditorium
at Sparkman, Bldg 5304
- In-Auditorium Program Speakers:
- CAPT (Ret), USCG Bud Schneeweis
MOAA Director, Benefits & Financial Education
 - LTC (Ret) USA Thomas P. McKenna
DFAS Director, Retired & Annuitant Pay
 - Mr. Mac Sanders, DOD Civilian
PAHM TRICARE Regional Office South
 - COL John S. Hamilton, Garrison Commander
-  1200-1315 Lunch at Sparkman Complex
\$9 Baked Chicken (w/ potatoes, corn, drink)
\$5 Hot Dog (w/ Chips, drink, dessert)
 -  1315-1445 Raffle RAD Prizes (Auditorium) Winners
responsible for prize transportation from Sparkman
-  0800 – 1500 Estate/Legal Services at Redstone Tax
Assistance Office (Bldg 3489, corner of
Ajax & Zeus) (see insert for details)
- TBA MWR Rhythms, Brew & BBQ (*new* Activity Field)
(*evening/night*) (For latest info: www.Redstonemwr.com)

OTHER KEY SERVICES PROVIDED AT RAD 2012:

- **DFAS set up at both Friday and Saturday RAD**
- **ID CARDS issuance/assistance - Saturday**
- **Veteran's Administration reps - Saturday**
- **Golf Carts to escort you from car to events!**
- **Prizes to include a special "major" prize will be raffled Saturday after lunch.**

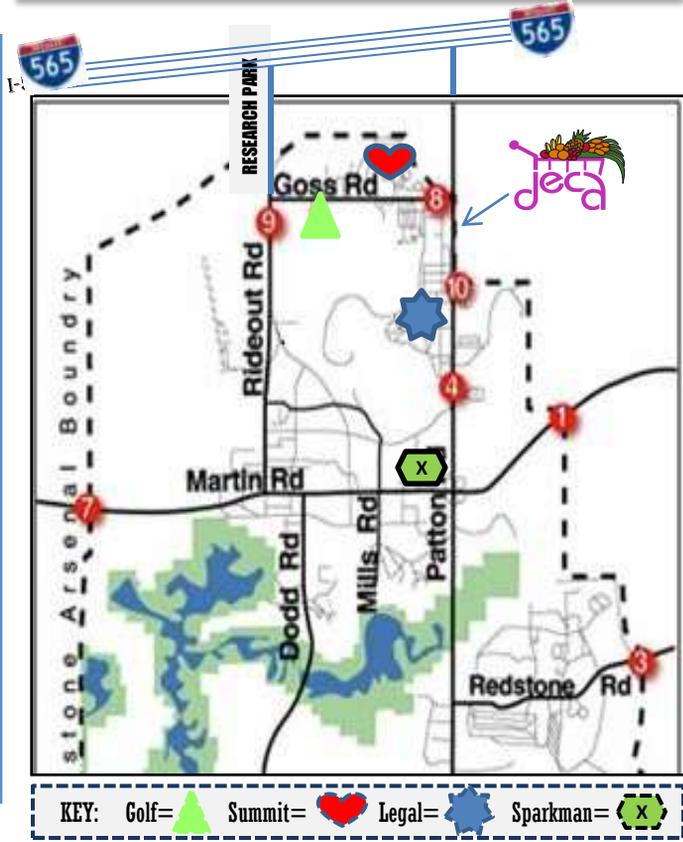
STRENGTH of the Retirees

"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"

REDSTONE ARSENAL GATES

TO GAIN ACCESS TO REDSTONE ARSENAL:
 Redstone no longer requires vehicle decals. Make sure you bring photo identification (i.e. ID, driver's license age 16+), and proof of car insurance.

FYI: Recommend Gate 9. There is a turn around directly after Gate 9 entry which is open Friday after 1900 and open weekends. Otherwise there is a 2nd turnaround 1/4 mile further down the road.



- = Gate Numbers**
- GATE 1 – Martin Road**
0530 – 2100 Mon – Fri
Closed Weekends & Holidays
 - GATE 2 – Buxton Road**
Closed Until Further Notice
 - GATE 3 – Redstone Road**
0530 - 1800 Mon-Fri
Closed Weekends & Holidays
 - GATE 7 - Martin Road (West)**
0530 - 2000 Mon-Fri
Closed Weekends & Holidays
 - GATE 8 - Goss Road (East)**
0530- 2400, 7 days a week
 - GATE 9 - Rideout Road**
Open 24 Hours Daily
 - GATE 10 - Patton Road**
Open – 0530-2100, Mon-Fri
Closed Weekends & Holidays

Friday’s portion of the RAD will be at the Summit and Overlook, (formerly referred to as the Redstone Arsenal Officers’ and Civilians’ Club or ROCC). The Summit and Overlook are collocated at Bldg 130, Golf Course Road off Goss Road. Golf carts will be available to assist you. The Overlook will be set up for drive-by flu shots.

Saturday’s portion of the RAD will be held in two places: 1) in the Bob Jones Auditorium at the Sparkman Complex. The Sparkman Complex is located at the corner of Martin and Patton Roads. Parking will be on the south side of the complex by the auditorium only. Golf carts will be available to assist visitors from the parking lot to the auditorium. 2) Legal Services will conduct services in the Tax Assistance Office, located at Bldg 3489, corner of Ajax and Zeus.

SATURDAY (29 SEP) LUNCH RESERVATION MY SELECTION IS:

Baked Chicken Dinner w/ sides \$9 QTY: _____ Hot Dog Plate \$5 QTY: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____ (Incl Area code)

ADDITIONAL NAMES: _____

Make check or money order payable to: **POST RESTAURANT (PRF)**
 Mail or deliver to RSO at: **ATTN: RAD 2012 3494 Honest John Road ,Redstone Arsenal AL 35898**

Cancellations made in emergency cases only. Contact RSO by e-mail at: edward.n.adams6.civ@mail.mil and/or 256-876-2022.

TO ENSURE ENOUGH DINNERS ARE PREPARED - MAIL THIS BY 19 SEP

**Retiree Appreciation Day
(RAD) Activities
27,28,29 September 2012**

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RSO

Retirement Services Office (RSO) Information
3494 Honest John Road
Redstone Arsenal AL 35898

The Retirement Services Office acts as the liaison between the retirees and the agencies. The RSO provides a myriad of services for both active duty Soldiers and post retirees and family members: Survivor Benefit Plan, Retirement Application, Pre-Retirement Counseling, Assistance with Retired Pay account, VA benefits, Retiree Benefits and Entitlements, CSB/Redux information, Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) and Conducts an annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD).

It is our desire to provide exceptional and professional service to all our customers. Unfortunately due to the reduction in our overall manpower, and to guarantee you will be seen within a reasonable allotted time - you must have an appointment for all post retirement visits. Walk-ins will be attempted to be seen but likely rescheduled for a later time and/or date.

The Retirement Service Office hours of operation is Monday–Friday, 0800-1530. For appointments contact the following: Ed Adams, Retirement Services Officer Phone: (256) 876-2022 E-mail: RSA-RSO@conus.army.mil or RSA-RSO@us.army.mil or edward.n.adams6.civ@mail.mil; Jean Manley, Asst RSO, Phone: (256) 842-2718 E-mail: doris.p.manley.civ@mail.mil. You may also contact Barbara E. Moudy, Chief of Transition Center, Phone: (256) 313-6481, E-mail: barbara.e.moudy.civ@mail.mil;

Post Information: Redstone Arsenal Operator (256) 876-2151

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
TENTATIVE 2013 RAD:
27, 28 SEP 2013**



Seeking Military Retirement Information by Service online?

Army:	My Army Benefits:	http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil
Marines:	Separation & Retirement Branch:	https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR
Navy:	Retirements & Separations:	http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/retirement/Pages/default.aspx
Air Force:	Air Force Retiree Services	http://www.retirees.af.mil
Coast Guard:	PPC Retiree & Annuitant Svs Branch	http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras



The Huntsville Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
together with the Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council (MRC)
present the

1st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Golf Tournament

THURSDAY 27 September 2012

0700 Registration 0800 Shotgun Start Four person scramble format

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FEE: \$ 50

INCLUDES: Greens fee, cart, Lunch, Fun Contests, and many, many cool prizes!

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA



Proceeds to
benefit the
Chapter
Scholarship
program & your
2012 RAD!

For more info, sign
up, or seek to
sponsor pls call:
Arno Hoerle
256-837-6253
Bruce Robinson
256-450-2252

brobinso@mitre.org

*Don't play golf? We gladly
accept donations to our
Scholarship Fund!*

Fox Army Health Center 2012 Retiree Appreciation Day

When: Friday Sept 28

Where: Summit (formerly ROCC) Ball Room

Time: 0700 – 14:30

- FOX will be performing bone scans and B/P screenings.
- Over 30 local Businesses and Vendors will be present!
- TRICARE reps will also be present.

FOX INFORMATION: (256) 955-8888



LEGAL OFFICE AND RAD 2012 ESTATE PLANNING

In support of the 2012 RAD - - the Legal Office will provide the following services at the Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center on a walk-in basis: *wills, living wills, healthcare powers of attorney and powers of attorney.*

1. Download the will worksheet at www.redstone.army.mil/legal/lao.html.
2. Arrive with your worksheet completed to the best of your ability as this will ensure faster service. Each person must complete their own worksheet.
3. Legal representatives will be available from 0730 to 1500 on 29 Sep 12 in the Tax Assistance Center located at building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road.

****RSO reminder: You must be present to participate/win in the end of events raffle at the Sparkman Center, so you may want to coordinate your Legal Office visit around the raffle to ensure you do not miss out on a great prize!*

The Summit at Redstone

130 Golf Course Road Phone: 313-3255

RAD SPECIALS:

Breakfast - \$9 All you can eat
(Friday, Sept. 28, 7-9 am)

Lunch - \$9 All you can eat
(Friday, Sept. 28, 11 am - 1 pm)

German Dinner - \$14.95
(Sept. 28 & 29, 5-8 pm)

German Dinner Buffet

German Sausages
Schnitzel
Sauerkraut
Red Cabbage
German Fried Potatoes
German Potato Salad
Broetchens

Only \$14⁹⁵ per person. Open to all Retirees in the Redstone Community! Reservations are recommended.

Dinner on
Sept. 28 & 29
is open to
all Retirees!



Other Summit Activities

Daily Lunch Buffet

Tues - German Buffet

Wed - German Buffet

Thurs - German Buffet

Friday - Alabama Surf & Turf

Full Deli Sandwich menu available
daily at lunch.

Hours: Tues - Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Open to the Redstone Community

Evening Dining

Friday & Saturday from 5-8 p.m.

Evening Dining is open to Club members and their guests.

Happy Hour

In the Bob Howell Room
every Friday from 5-6 p.m.



What is the Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council or MRC?



Did you know every Army Installation has its own Retiree Council? It is one of the only volunteer organizations chartered by HQDA, and outlined in Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-7.

Our Redstone and Southeast Region council is called the Redstone Military Retiree Council or MRC. The AR addresses specific requirements but primarily we:

- ◆ Assist the RSO in planning and execution of the RAD.
- ◆ Provide Garrison Commander and Chief of Staff, Army insight into Army vital issues, programs, and initiatives.
- ◆ Provide retired community an opportunity to provide input to decisions, policies, and laws affecting the retired community.
- ◆ Institute programs to create a strong communication link between the Active Army and retired community.

We have recently reinvigorated our MRC, establishing new General Council and Steering Committees. We are always looking for new members willing to help bridge our Garrison and Retired Community! Become an 'Army Strong' advocate in promoting a positive influence. Please fill out and meet us at RAD Info Desk. There will be a new and informative MRC tri-fold at the RAD events. *(If you are unable to attend the RAD – contact Ken or Joe via below information.)*

NAME: _____ RETIRED RANK/GRADE: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ HOME PHONE: (_____) ____ -- _____ CELL PHONE:(_____) ____ - _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SFC Kenneth Carter
USARMY (RET)
Membership Chair
Kenneth.e.carter.civ@mail.mil
256 714 5305

COL Joe Judge
USARMY (RET)
Secretary , MRC
joseph.judge.civ@mail.mil
256 842 1127



We Need You!



Have an aged US flag? Bring to RAD Info Desk and your MRC will mass mail it to a wonderful Veteran's organization called the "Pease Greeters" of Stratham, New Hampshire. They "recycle" unserviceable U.S. flags by cutting the embroidered stars from the blue field, putting a poem on the back, and presenting them to U.S. service personnel to honor their service. The "Pease Greeters" are a patriotic organization that support deployed troops and greet deploying and returning troops at Pease AFB. View them on "You Tube".



Don't Forget!

ARMY E-ECHOES: Sign up

Army Echoes needs your help to reduce publishing costs. Have you ever considered reading your echoes online? We understand not all retirees have access to a computer, but those who do should consider the advantages of e-Echoes. Not only will you save paper, but you will have access to Echoes from any computer and can see current and back issues.

Army Echoes has a goal this year to increase e-Echoes volunteers from 33,000 to 150,000. You can sign up for e- Echoes at www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp by clicking on register now.

You can also register via mail by sending your name, email address and the last four of your SSN to: **Army Retirement Services, ATTN: DAPE-HR-RSO, Alexandria, VA 2233**. spouses must provide the retiree's FULL SSN.



RETIRED PAY INFORMATION

Retirees are responsible for updating their file at DFAS-Cleveland within one year in the event that they marry, remarry, are widowed or divorced and need to update beneficiary information and make or update Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election. Address changes should also be reported to DFAS-CL to ensure receipt of retired pay, newsletters, 1099R forms and retiree account statements.

You may also start, stop, or change allotments and change direct deposit information by contacting DFAS by phone at **1-800-321-1090** or by fax at **1-800-469-6559**. Written requests for updates and/or entitlements must be mailed to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, **US Military Retired Pay**, P.O. Box 7130 London, KY 40742-7130. SBP and Annuitant Pay inquiries can be mailed to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, **U.S. Military Annuitant Pay**, P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-8459.

STRENGTH of the Retirees
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"



Cutting the Cost

Dear Retiree and Families:

Due to budget cuts across the Armed Forces, and the increasing cost of mailing out the Redstone Arsenal Annual Bulletin, we must explore other ways to deliver this bulletin to you and your families. This may be the last hard copy to be mass-mailed. The future primary means to acquire the bulletin will be via our website at www.garrison.redstone.army.mil. You will be able to download it, as well as other key RSO information at your convenience.

If you have an email account and would like us to email future Bulletins or notify you when we have uploaded it to our website simply email the RSO at: RSA-RSO@us.army.mil, and we will place you in our data distribution list. You may even provide us an email address of a family member if you don't have a personal email.

Privacy Act Data: Your e-mail address will not be disclosed, discussed, or shared with individuals unless they have a direct need-to-know in the performance of their duties.

If you do not have a computer nor an email address to email a copy of the Bulletin, please complete and submit the below request form at the RAD Info Desk or mail to: US Army Garrison, ATTN: RSO/Mr. Ed Adams, 3494 Honest John Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898. Please visit the RAD Info desk should you have further questions.

REQUEST BULLETIN via MAIL

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Rank: _____ Branch of Svc _____

Current Address: _____

City _____, State _____

Phone: _____

I do not have an email address or computer and seek to receive future RSO Bulletins via above mailing address

STRENGTH of the Retirees

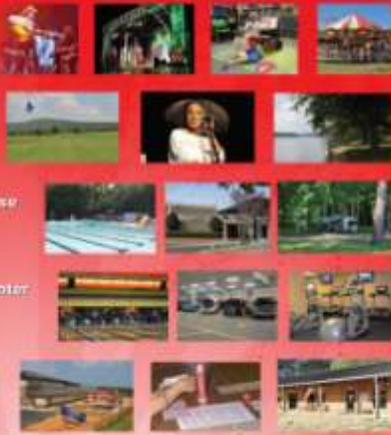
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"

If you can READ THIS
You **CAN** use
MWR facilities!



- ★ Active/Retired/Reserve Military personnel
- ★ Currently employed DoD/DA/NASA Civilians
- ★ Redstone/NASA Contractors
- ★ And their family members and guests, too!

- Army Concert Tour
- Arts & Crafts
- Auto Skills Center
- Challenger BINGO!
- Child & Youth Services
- Conferencing Services
- Fitness Centers
- Flying Activity
- Leisure Travel
- Library
- Java Café
- Links at Redstone Golf Course
- ODR Campgrounds
- Oktoberfest
- Outdoor Recreation
- Recreation Center
- Redstone Lanes Bowling Center
- RV Park
- Soldatenstube Restaurant
- Sparkman Center Cafeteria
- Storage Units
- The Cliffs at Redstone
- The Summit at Redstone
- Ticket Office
- ... and more!



REDSTONE ARSENAL
FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION
www.REDSTONEMWR.com
Family and MWR Membership 256.313.4806



U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT:
Keeping the Promise



REDSTONE ARSENAL
MWR



FAMILY AND MORALE,
WELFARE AND RECREATION

Stop by and watch one of your favorite sporting events on one of our 12 Flatscreen TVs and a Huge Projection Screen!

Brooklyns Sports Bar is located inside the Redstone Lanes Bowling Center off Patton Rd.
For more information, call 876-6634.



CHALLENGER BINGO

Bldg. 1500 Weeden Mtn. Road
Phone: 955-3727/3729



Hours of Operation

MON: Closed

TUE - FRI:

Cards go on sale at 5:15 p.m.
Bingo program starts at 6:45 p.m.

SAT & SUN:

Cards go on sale at 12:15 p.m.
Bingo program starts at 1:45 p.m.



New GAME SUITE electronic game system for Quik Shot fun!

**First Time Bingo Visitor
STAR PLAYER COUPON
\$32.25 TOTAL VALUE**

FREE TO YOU:

ONE PACK (10 games - 6 cards per game)
LIME SHEET & BROWN SHEET - \$3.50 each
Purple, Gold, Green, Blue, Orange & Red Card - \$2.25 each
PINK & WHITE CARD - \$1.75 each
U-PICK-EM - \$1.25

Open to the Public



Call 313-5224

September 13-16

Admission Includes:

- ★ **FREE** Carnival Rides
- ★ **FREE** Parking
- ★ **FREE** Entertainment

REDSTONE ARSENAL
Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

**RETIREE APPRECIATION
15% DISCOUNT CARD**

GOOD FOR USE AT ANY
REDSTONE ARSENAL FAMILY AND MWR
ACTIVITY LISTED IN BULLETIN

Valid for Sept. 28 - Sept. 30, 2012

Cut out this discount card and use it at any of the following FMWR Activities:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS CENTER | REDSTONE LANES |
| ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER | SOLDATENSTUBE
GERMAN RESTAURANT |
| CHALLENGER BINGO | THE FIREHOUSE PUB |
| FLYING ACTIVITY | THE LINKS AT REDSTONE
GOLF COURSE |
| OUTDOOR RECREATION
EQUIPMENT RENTAL | THE SUMMIT AT REDSTONE |

WWW.REDSTONEMWR.COM

100% disabled receive free MWR membership.

STRENGTH of the Retirees
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"

Redstone Commissary/Exchange Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Specials



Join us at the commissary Friday

September 28, 2012

1100—1400

Games / Door Prizes / Refreshments

The Commissary will also provide a major prize for the Saturday raffle as well!

Upcoming events:

Mega Case Lot Sale

Sept. 20, 21 22, 2012

***Back to School ***

September Specials

Bargain Displays

Giveaways

School Supplies



STRENGTH of the Retirees
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"



WITHDRAWAL FROM SBP FOR TOTAL VA DISABILITY RATING

This fact sheet provides information to help you understand the provisions of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), but is not a contract document. The basic statutory provisions of the SBP law are in Chapter 73, Title 10, United States Code.

Withdrawal from SBP for Total VA Disability Rating

Reference Effect on SBP Annuity if DIC is Awarded by the VA.

Because of the above referenced integration, Public Law 96-402 permits retirees who are rated totally disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs to withdraw from SBP provided:

- He/she has held the total disability rating for a period of at least five continuous years if the disability rating was awarded at retirement or
- He/she has held the disability rating for at least 10 continuous years if the disability rating was awarded and became effective later than the date of the member's retirement.

(If a member withdraws from SBP under this 100 percent VA disability provision, no annuity will be payable.)

A request for withdrawal requires the written consent of the member's spouse. There is no immediate refund of premiums; however, upon the death of a member who has withdrawn under this provision, a refund of SBP premiums deducted from the member's retired pay, without interest, will be paid to the widow(er). The refund is normally paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to the widow(er) with the arrears of pay and an additional application form is not required.

When a retiree sends a request to withdraw to **DFAS (DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130)**, a written statement outlining the advantages and disadvantages of withdrawing will be furnished to the retiree by DFAS. The change will not take effect until the member confirms receipt of the information and acknowledges that he/she still wishes to withdraw. If the total VA disability rating is withdrawn or reduced, SBP coverage may be resumed.

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS: Casualty Assistance is provided by Redstone Arsenal for families of Army Retirees that reside in northern Alabama. The phone number is **256-876-3148/4252**. Birmingham and all points south are covered by Ft Rucker. Their phone number is 800-661-1407. Army Retirees in Tennessee need to contact Ft. Campbell at 270-798-4727. Additionally, for Air Force Retirees contact 334-953-4545, Marine Retirees contact 866-826-3628, Navy contact 904-542-4008 and Coast Guard contact 504-489-6220. Immediate notification of a Retiree's death will enable the Casualty Assistance Office to notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in a timely manner to stop the retired pay. The sooner this is done the sooner benefits can be received by the surviving spouse. Be sure to update your family planning checklist and let your family know where it is located. In the Retirement Services Office and Casualty Office we assist all branches of service Retiree Widows and loved ones. When we ask for documents, which are normally needed to request benefits, sometimes the response is "I don't know where my spouse kept those papers." This could affect VA, Social Security, and Retired Pay. Some papers are important and hard to replace, yet not used often.



These papers should be kept in a fireproof safe at home. DEERS, Retirement Services and Casualty assistance center will need copies of the DD Form 214s and certified copy of the death certificate. Records to keep forever are: Birth Certificates, Citizenship papers, Marriage Certificates, Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements, Divorce Decrees, Adoption Papers, Death Certificates, Real Estate Deeds, Patents and Copyrights, Copies of Diplomas and School Transcripts, Military Records (DD Form 214s), Bonds and Stock Certificates, and important contracts. **Records to Keep until updated are:** current credit cards, Record of your passwords, Insurance policies and information on Titles to vehicles, Household inventory listing your possessions and their value, and Passports. There are additional important papers you need easy access to. These should be kept in a place where you can find them quickly. These include Tax returns and all tax related papers, Bills to pay/Receipts for bills paid, Current canceled checks, Employment records, Information on your health plan, List of Beneficiaries, list of checking and savings accounts and locations, and Safe deposit box. If you die, your safe deposit box will be sealed. So you should also keep one copy of your will at home and another with your lawyer. Also, tell someone you trust where to find these vital docs.



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS "Honoring Those Who Served." The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing Military Honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DOD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended our nation. Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a Military Funeral Honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. Retirees are authorized full honors which includes 21 gun salute and pall bears if available. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors or family members to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's family, the family must take the discharge certificate, DD 214 or proof of military service to the funeral home when making request. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging honors at VA national cemeteries. Veteran's organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a National Cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home. The military funeral honors Website is located at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

VA BURIAL FLAG: A United States Flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of deceased Veteran who served honorable in the US Forces. It is to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his/her country. The flag is presented to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake after its use during the funeral service. A completed VA Form 21-2008 is necessary to apply for a flag and generally, the funeral director will assist with the application. Information or concerns please contact the Casualty Assistance Center at 256-876-4252 or 3148, email johnny.d.hawkins@us.army.mil or johnny.d.hawkins.civ@mail.mil.





Attention – Retirees and Family Members:

If you have not taken the time to visit this website you are missing out on valuable and new information readily available for you and your family. I highly, encourage those of you who have computers to browse the library. You won't be disappointed.

VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP)

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

Eligibility:

Retired Soldiers are eligible for VRAP provided they meet all of the following conditions:

Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old

Be unemployed

Have an other than dishonorable discharge

Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)

Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability

Not be enrolled in a Federal or state job training program

Benefit Highlights:

The program is limited to **45,000 participants** from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to **54,000 participants** from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently **\$1,473 per month**). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program. VA will begin accepting application online at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/> starting **May 15, 2012**.

Eligible Programs

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a **high demand occupation**. Search for an approved program at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

Additional Information:

For more information, please visit the official VA website:

http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/vrap.html



TRICARE Resources

- www.tricare.mil: Visit the TRICARE Web site for benefit and cost information, or to locate a military treatment facility, Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator or Collection Assistance Officer.
- www.tricare.mil/mediacenter: Visit the TRICARE Media Center to sign up for TRICARE e-mails or get breaking news and benefit changes.

Humana Military Resources

- www.humana-military.com: Use Humana Military's Website to manage your TRICARE benefit and to view and print claims, explanations of benefits, and specialty care authorizations.
- m.humana-military.com: Humana Military's new mobile Web site gives you on-the-go access to some of our most popular Web and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) features 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **1-800-444-5445**: Call Humana Military's toll-free number to use IVR self-service features or speak with customer service representatives who can answer your questions about TRICARE requirements, claims, referrals, and authorizations.



is the way to go

How to Get a Retiree Account Statement (RAS) Copy

The most convenient way to view, print and save your latest RAS is via myPay. myPay makes your RAS, as well as tax statements and other pay account information, available 24 hours a day. Address is:

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

If you cannot access myPay or you need a RAS that is no longer in your myPay account, send a detailed written request to: **DFAS Retired Pay , P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130 or Fax: 800-469-6559**

In your request, please include: your name, Social Security Number, signature and the date. Please specify exactly what information you need and the dates you need included in the statement. (*For example:* federal income tax withholding, Survivor Benefit Plan costs and allotments for June 2010 to September 2010). Retiree Account Statements from past years require extensive research. Please allow **up to 60 days to process** an extended audit of your account.



Divorced? Widowed? Remarried?

Make Sure Your SBP Election is Current

By Bill Hursh

Army Survivor Benefits Program Manager

Every issue of the *Army Echoes* reminds retirees to update their *Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)* election within one year of dependent changes such as marriage or remarriage. Ignoring this reminder can result in a retiree or surviving spouse accumulating a substantial debt or, in some cases, losing spouse SBP coverage. For marriage or remarriage after retirement, there are two spouse SBP scenarios.

The first scenario involves a retiree who had spouse SBP coverage, lost that spouse, and remarried. Spouse SBP premiums are suspended when there is no spouse SBP beneficiary. This retiree should contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and provide either a divorce decree or death certificate. A retiree who wants former spouse SBP needs to notify DFAS-CL within **one year** of the divorce to change the SBP election to former spouse SBP. If the retiree remarries without changing the spouse SBP election to former spouse, the new spouse becomes an eligible SBP beneficiary on the first anniversary of the remarriage.

A remarried retiree has three options concerning spouse SBP -- *decline SBP coverage* for the new spouse and any future spouse, *increase SBP coverage* if SBP election was for reduced spouse coverage, or *resume previous spouse SBP coverage*. The retiree must inform DFAS of the remarriage and choice of spouse SBP coverage by the first anniversary of the remarriage or, by law, the new spouse is automatically enrolled with the previous level of SBP coverage. Since the new spouse is the SBP beneficiary on the first anniversary of the marriage, the retiree owes SBP premiums from that date. If the retiree **did not** notify DFAS-CL of the remarriage, a debt will be accumulated for spouse SBP premiums retroactive to the first anniversary of the remarriage. This can result in an unexpected debt to the retiree or a surviving spouse of several hundred to tens of thousands of dollars depending on the length of time since remarriage.

The second scenario involves a retiree who did not have a spouse at retirement and married after retirement. For the first marriage after retirement, the spouse SBP category is still open to this retiree. However, the retiree must provide DFAS-CL an SBP election for the new spouse within one year of the marriage or the category of spouse SBP is closed for that spouse and any future spouse. If the retiree elects SBP for the new spouse, DFAS-CL will start collecting the premiums from the date of the first anniversary of the marriage.

Retirees can update their SBP election after marriage or remarriage by completing and submitting a Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate (DD Form 2656-6) to DFAS *within the first year of marriage*.

Send the completed form and marriage certificate to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. You can contact the nearest Installation Retirement Services Officer (RSO) for assistance.

A DFAS rep will be speaking at the RAD on Saturday.



**HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER, INC. 2200 DRAKE AVE.
HUNTSVILLE, AL. 35805 256-880-7080**

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) serves as a volunteer clearing house, matching civilian and military retirees, age 55 and over to community non-profits in need of service. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides a way for retirees to use their life experience and skills to fill critical community needs. Volunteers can invest a couple of hours, or up to 40 hours per week in community assignments.

Individuals with disabilities, are strongly encouraged to participate. Whenever possible, we will provide reasonable accommodations and conduct all activities in fully accessible settings. Madison County R.S.V.P. is currently partnered with 60 non-profit agencies, and has 550 civilian and military retirees enrolled as volunteers. For more information about serving our community through R.S.V.P., visit us at www.seniorview.com or call 256-513-8290.



NEED A PLACE TO STAY – GIVE US A VISIT

**"Hotel Redstone" Redstone Lodging front desk is open 24 hours
a day to serve our guests.**

Redstone Lodging consists of 144 guest rooms located in 21 buildings. Building 244 has a total of nineteen rooms. Fifteen rooms (GHSN/SS) which are equipped with two queen size beds. The four end corner rooms are classified as (GHGK) and they also have two queen size beds plus kitchenettes that allow guests to cook.

Buildings 131,133,135 have a total of 62 rooms. There are 48 (VOQs) and 14 (VOQAs). The VOQs have one queen size. Half of these room rooms (24) have mini-kitchenettes. The 14 VOQAs are two room suites and have kitchens allowing Lodging's transient guest to cook their meals. Two of the lower level VOQA suites in building 133 are designated accessible for those guests who are physically challenged. Located in the 1400 area are 47 one-bedroom units with separate study room designed for an extended stay guest (VOQI). These rooms are equipped with queen size bed, full kitchen with cookware for meal preparation, dining room, study room and living room as well as other amenities to Army Lodging standards.

Sharing the 1400 area are 16 rooms two-bedroom units designed for extended stay guests or families. These GHSP units are pet friendly rooms. These rooms are equipped with two queen size beds, queen size sleeper sofa, full kitchen with cookware for meal preparation, dining room, and living room as well as other amenities to Army Lodging standards. Room Rates are as follows. GHSN/SS-\$52, GHGK--\$57 VOQ-\$54, VOQA-\$60, VOQI-\$59, GHSP-\$59,

Additional occupants is \$5 extra

Reservations # 256-876-8028 or 256-876-5713

STRENGTH of the Retirees
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"



AKO for Army Retirees

Army Knowledge Online (AKO) has a site just for you – AKO for Army Retirees at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/559734>. AKO for Army Retirees is your gateway to a wealth of information including Retiree resources on the Web and sites covering medical benefits, pay, and state and regional resources.

Be sure to add it to your favorites!

MISSING MILITARY RECORDS

Military Retirees and Veterans, regardless of when you retired or separated from military service, you have one source when requesting missing records and awards – **the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO**. The Army's Human Resources Command asks you not to send requests to them. NPRC forwards requests to HRC St. Louis only when NPRC is unable to respond to the request. Since there are still sources telling Retirees and Veterans to go to HRC-St. Louis for records, we ask retired Soldiers to share this information.

All military Retirees and Veterans, who need to replace missing records or awards, can go online to <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. Family members who need to replace missing records or awards for their veteran can also use this service. If you do not have access to a computer, you can write to: [National Archives in Washington, DC 700](http://NationalArchivesinWashingtonDC700) Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408



MISSING MEDAL

The veteran must complete the Application for Correction of Military Record (DD Form 149, Sep 2007) and send it to:

1. Army (Active Duty personnel) Army (Other than Active Duty)
Army Board for Correction of Military Records Army Review Boards Agency, 1901 South Bell Street, 2nd Floor Support Division, St Louis, Arlington, VA 22202-4508 9700 Page Avenue St Louis, MO 63132-5200

2. Marine Corps & Navy
Board For The Correction of Naval Records Air Force Personnel Center, Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20370-5100, Phone (703) 614-1402 or 2133

3. Air Force
FPC/DPPPR
550 C Street West, Suite 12
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

4. Coast Guard
Board for the Correction of Military Records
245 Murray Lane, Room 5126, Mail Stop #0900
Washington, DC 20528



The application must be accompanied by **proof or evidence, such as statements of witnesses**, medical records, newspaper articles or other pertinent correspondence.

The veteran must submit a request to:
National Personnel Records Center Medals Section
(Army, Marine Corps Navy or Air Force Reference Branch)
9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

STRENGTH of the Retirees

"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"



MILITARY ID CARD FACILITIES

MISSION: The Redstone Arsenal Military ID Card branch is responsible for the processing of identification cards for all soldiers, dependents, retirees, and applicable Civilian Personnel at Redstone and surrounding areas.

Redstone Arsenal

3494 Honest John Rd
Huntsville, AL 35898

Hours: M-T 0715-1500 & Friday 0800-1500
(256) 842-2413

117th MSS

5401 East Lake Blvd.
Birmingham, AL 35217

Hours: T-F 0730-1200; 1300-1630
(205) 714-2315

187th MSS

4600 S. Richardson Road
Montgomery, AL 36108

Hours: T-F 0900-1500
(334) 394-7218

87th MAC

1400 Gloden Acorn Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244

Hours: M-F 0730-1500
205-987-8443 ext 4388.

AG HQ Birmingham

285 W. Oxmoor Rd P.O. Box 10225
Birmingham, AL 35209

Hours: M-F 0700-1600
(205) 769-2024

AG HQ State

1720 William Dickenson Drive
Montgomery, AL 36109

Hours: M-F 0800-1600
(334) 274-4316

ARNG Center Ft. McClellan

541 Galloway Rd
Anniston, AL 36205

Hours: M-F 0830-1130; 1300-1500
(256) 847-4159

NMCRC Bessemer

1001 4th Avenue SW
Birmingham, AL 35023

Hours: T-W 0900-1130; 1230-1500
(205) 497-2605

NRC Tuscaloosa

2627 10th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Hours: T-W 0900-1100; 1300-1500
(205) 345-6910

NMCRC Chattanooga

4051 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37405

Hours: W 0900-1520
(423) 698-8955

NRC Nashville

1515 Davidson Street
Nashville, TN 37206

Hours: M-F 0700-1630
(615) 228-6894

STRENGTH of the Retirees
"Supporting Warriors, Veterans and their Families"

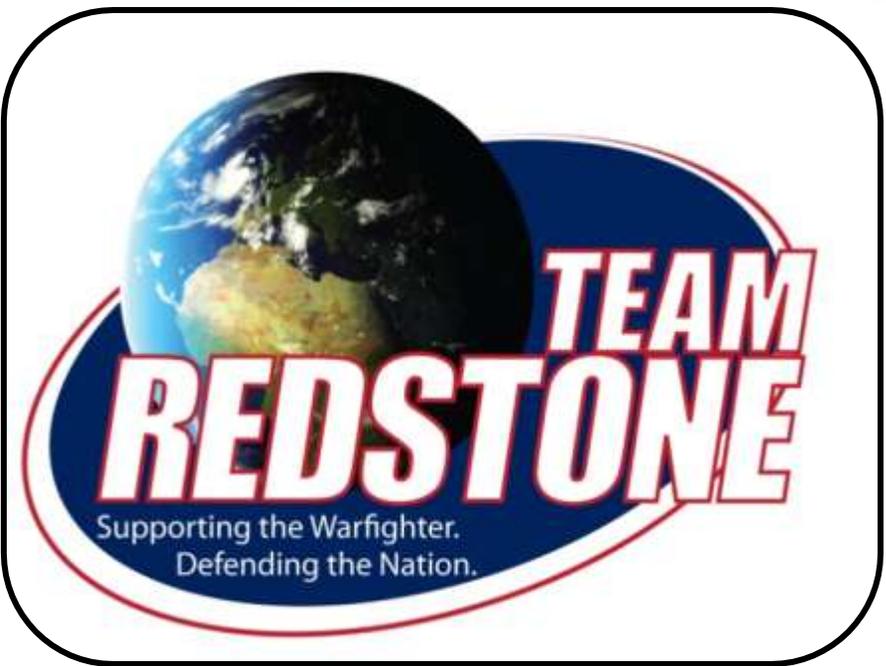
AGENCIES AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Activity	URL	Phone
Arlington National Cemetery	http://www.arlingtoncemetery.gov	877-907-8585
Air Force Afterburner	http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner	800-531-7502
Armed Forces Retirement Home (Soldiers & Sailors Home) Washington D.C.	http://www.afrh.gov	800-422-9988 202-541-7501
Armed Forces Retirement Home (Soldiers & Sailors Home) Gulfport, MS	http://www.afrh.gov	800-322-3527 228-897-4418
Army & Air Force Exchange Service	http://www.aafes.com http://www.shopmyexchange.com	800-527-2345
Army Career & Alumni Program (ACAP)	https://www.acap.army.mil	800-325-4715
Army Knowledge Online (AKO)	https://ako.us.army.mil	866-335-2769 Option 2
Burial and Memorial Benefits	http://www.cem.va.gov	800-827-1000
Coast Guard Evening Colors	http://www.uscg.mil/hr/psc/retnews	866-634-0574
Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)	https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/crsc/index.html	866-281-3254
DA Retirement Services (Army Echoes)	http://armyg1.army.mil/retire	
DECA Commissaries	http://www.commissaries.com	804-734-8000, ext 86069
DEERS Verification (Updated ID records)	http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi	800-538-9552
Delta Dental Plan (Retiree Dental Plan)	http://trpd.org	888-838-8737
DFAS Cleveland (Retired & Annuitant Pay)	http://www.dfas.mil	800-321-1080
DOD Military Health Care System (TRICARE)	http://www.tricare.mil	800-444-5445
Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy)	http://www.express-scripts.com	Based on plan
Federal Long Term Care Insurance	http://lfcfeds.com	800-582-3337
Marine Corps Semper Fi	http://www.manpower.usmc.mil	703-784-9200
Medicare	http://www.medicare.gov	800-772-1213
Military Funeral Honors	http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil	
Military Homefront (formerly SITES home page – info about military installations)	http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil	800-324-9647
Military Living Publications (includes Space A travel / lodging info)	http://www.militaryliving.com	877-363-4677 ext 1
Military Personnel Records Requests	http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov	866-272-6272
MyPay Customer Service	https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx	888-322-7411
National Personnel Records Center	http://www.archives.gov	866-272-6272
Navy Shift Colors	http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/publications/shiftcolors/Pages/default.aspx	901-874-4308

Post Information: Redstone Arsenal operator (256) 876-2151

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS enrolment & card issuing facilities)	https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site?execution=e2s1	
Redstone Arsenal Army Community Service	http://www.redstonemwr.com/community	256-876-5397
Redstone Arsenal Commissary – Bldg 3224	http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCSJF	256-955-6627
Redstone Arsenal Lodging – Hotel Redstone	http://redstonemwr.com/lodging_&_leisure/armylodging.html	256-876-5713
Redstone Arsenal Mortuary & Casualty Assistance – Bldg 3494	http://www.redstonemwr.com/family/army_community_service/sos.html	256-876-5397
Redstone Arsenal PX – Bldg 3220	http://www.shopmyexchange.com/ExchangeLocations/RedstoneArsenalStore.htm	256-883-6100
Retiree Mobilization		314-592-0000 xt 3030
Tricare for Life	https://www.tricare4u.com	866-773-0404
Tricare – North Region	http://www.healthnetfederalservices.com	877-874-2273
Tricare – South Region	http://www.humana-military.com/	800-444-5445
Tricare – West Region	http://www.triwest.com	888-874-9378
U.S. Army Human Resources Command, St Louis, MO (Army Reserve)	http://www.hrc.army.mil	800-318-5298
Veteran’s Administration	http://www.va.gov	800-827-1000
VA Burial Information	http://www.va.gov	800-827-1000
VA Regional Office (Benefits issues)	http://www.va.gov	800-827-1000
Air Force Military Retired Affairs Offices	http://www.retirees.af.mil/raos/	AL 334-953-6725 TN 931-454-4574
Air Force Reserve / National Guard	http://www.airforcereserve.com/	800-864-6264
Marine Corps Retired Affairs Office	https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME	800-336-4649
Marine Corps Reserve	https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME	800-336-4649
Navy Retired Affairs Office	http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx	866-827-5672
Navy Reserve	http://www.navyreserve.com/	866-250-4778
Army Recreation Centers		
Hale Koa Hotel, HI	http://www.halekoa.com	800-367-6027
Edelweiss Lodge, Germany	http://www.edelweissslodgeandresort.com	011-49-8821-9440
Dragon Hill, Korea	http://www.dragonhilllodge.com	011-822-790-0016
Shades of Green, Florida	http://www.shadesofgreen.org	888-593-2242
Cape Henry Inn, VA	http://www.capehenryinn.com	757-422-8818

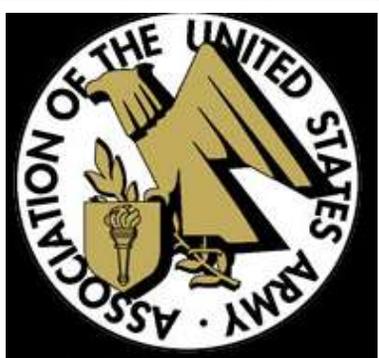
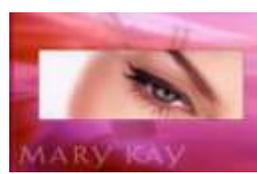
Post Information: Redstone Arsenal operator (256) 876-2151



Dr. Van Hardman & Redstone:
Px Eye Clinic 256-882-8663
 Most Insurance Accepted
 Including Medicare & TRICARE



National Vision Optical
 256-882-2619 Bldg 3230
 Adjacent to Px Parking Lot & Dr. Hardman's office Your full service optical center. (wide selection of frames, sunglasses, & contacts). Visit our booth on Military Retiree Appreciation Day to register for a \$150 eyeglass drawing.





We Will Always Remember

Retirement Services Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Commander
U.S. Army Garrison – Redstone Arsenal
ATTN: IMRE-HRM-RSO
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5193

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