



111 th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office Biddle Air Guard Base, Horsham, Pa.



Newsletter Vol. 7 Issue #1 Winter/Spring 2022

A publication of the 111th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is in support of the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees their families and surviving spouses residing in the Pa., N.J. and N.Y. Information has been edited and does not reflect the official policy of any U.S. Government agency.

111th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office/RAO/ CVR
Building 203, Room 168 Horsham, Pa. 19044-5203 Telephone 215-323-7135

The 111th Attack Wing Retiree Activities Office is an official activity organized in accordance with AFI 36-3106. The office is here to assist military retirees, their spouses, military veterans, guard and reserve personnel from all U.S. military services. We can provide information and contacts for pay (DFAS), benefits and entitlements, personnel and casualty affairs and interface with these organizations to help personnel. We have thirteen volunteers in our office including our director, retired Chief Master Sgt. Jenny Pappas. We are seeking more military retirees that have the time to volunteer (three hours per shift). E-Mail jenny.pappas.2@us.af.mil or vincent.acquaviva.3@us.af.mil

The 111th Retirees Activities Office (RAO) is open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3p.m. and also Saturday morning of 111th Drill/RDO 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Telephone 215-323-7135. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

If you need to contact Casualty Assistance Representative at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, their phone number is 609-754-3814/3154 or cell 609-668-5385.

If you need to replace or get a new ID card, please call 111th Customer Service Office at 215-323-7419. Contact for the Airman and Family Readiness Programs Office is: 215-323-7132

1. The 111th Attack Wing's external websites are at <http://www.111attackwing.ang.af.mil> or <http://www.facebook.com/111thATKW>

You will find all events and up to date info there including the Retirees Office, ID card, JAG information and current news and programs offered by the wing. **A Retiree Survivor's Guide to Benefits is available on the Library page of the Air Force Retiree Services website.**

<http://www.retirees.af.mil> This guide provides general information about most federal benefits and entitlements available to eligible family members of deceased retired Airmen and it explains various application processes. People can direct specific questions to the government agency administering the benefits or discuss these matters with an Air Force casualty assistance representative.

RetireeActivitiesOffice @BiddleAGB

7th Annual Military Retirees Appreciation Day

111th Air Wing Biddle Air Guard Base Horsham, PA

**- Event at 111th A&FRC Bldg.335/1364 Griffiss St.
19044**

Saturday July 9, 2022 0900-1400 hrs.

Military Retiree Informational Seminar:

Briefings from Representatives for *Tricare * VA Benefits
*Casualty Assistance*ID Cards *Retirees Activities Office
*Military Family Programs * Veterans Organizations

Complimentary Lite Lunch provided

Additional Information Contact:

Jenny Pappas or Vincent Acquaviva @ 215-323-7135

jenny.pappas.2@us.af.mil or vincent.acquaviva.3@us.af.mil

***R.S.V.P. By Saturday June 19, 2022 Note: all attendees
follow (DOD Covid Guidelines) Base entry requires DOD
ID Cards or vetting on Pass&ID List.***

Changes to Your TRICARE Prescription Drug Copayments In 2022

On January 1, 2022, you and your covered family members may experience an increase to prescription drug copayments.

Why the change?

Congress determined this change to prescription drug copayments in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Your prescription copayments vary based on where you fill your prescription and on the drug category they are in.

If you are an active duty service member (ADSM), you will continue to have \$0 copays for covered drugs at military pharmacies, retail pharmacies and home delivery through Express Scripts Pharmacy.

Copayments for dependent survivors of ADSMs and medically retired service members and their dependents will remain the same.

What are the copayment changes as of January 1, 2022?

Home Delivery through Express Scripts Pharmacy (Up to a 90-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$10 to \$12
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$29 to \$34
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68

TRICARE retail network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$13 to \$14
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$33 to \$38
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68

Non-network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs and brand-name formulary drugs will cost \$38 (up from \$33) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after you meet your annual deductible
- Non-formulary drugs will cost \$68 (up from \$60) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after you meet your annual deductible



2022 Retiree TRICARE Prices

Last October we got the news that the average Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), which impacts our military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity, Social Security benefit, and VA pay, for the last three months of the fiscal year came in at 5.9% — the highest cost of living allowance (COLA) increase since 2008.

The index and COLA adjustments are meant to protect pay and benefits against inflation. A large increase reflects the fact that we, as consumers, are paying more for goods and services.

Inflation for medical care has typically outpaced general inflation for the last 40-plus years,

increasing 4.11% in 2020 compared to our COLA increase of 1.3%. The three largest changes in medical pricing occurred in 1975 (12.06%), 1982 (11.60%), and 1980 (10.95%).

Unfortunately, in 2022 the opposite has occurred. Medical inflation through October 2021 was near an all-time low of 1.3% (according to the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). However, our TRICARE enrollment fees and copays are broadly tied to COLA — and the chart below reflects the increases for 2022. A complete listing of medical costs for each TRICARE plan can be found by using the cost compar-

ison tool at www.tricare.mil/costs/compare.

TRICARE published the 2022 enrollment, copay, and catastrophic cap increases on Nov. 5, 2021, just prior to the 2022 open season. Disappointingly, most of the 2022 increases were slightly more than our 5.9% COLA. COLA increases applied to TRICARE costs are rounded down to the whole dollar. However, the excess amounts are accumulated and carried over to the next year, which may result in increases above that year's COLA. ■■■

— By Capt. Paul J. Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret), program director for finance & benefits at MOAA

TRICARE GROUPS A & B COSTS COMPARISON

	PRIME				SELECT			
	GROUP A entered service prior to 01/01/18		GROUP B entered service after 01/01/18		GROUP A entered service prior to 01/01/18		GROUP B entered service after 01/01/18	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
ANNUAL PREMIUM								
Individual	\$303	\$323	\$366	\$392	\$150	\$158	\$474	\$504
Family	\$606	\$647	\$732	\$784	\$300	\$317	\$948	\$1,008
DEDUCTIBLES								
Individual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$158	\$168
Family					\$300	\$300	\$317	\$336
COPAYS								
Primary	\$21	\$22	\$21	\$22	\$30	\$32	\$26	\$28
Specialist	\$31	\$33	\$31	\$33	\$46	\$50	\$42	\$44
CATASTROPHIC CAP	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,703	\$3,921	\$3,500	\$3,706	\$3,703	\$3,921



TRICARE COSTS

Read about TRICARE copayments and more at www.tricare.mil/costs/compare.

What's News

2022 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there will be a 5.9 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), effective Dec. 1, 2021.

With the COLA applied, the maximum amount of SSIA payable will be \$346.

Retirees will see the change in their Dec. 30, 2021 payment and annuitants in their Jan. 3, 2022 payment.

For details, see the Fiscal Year 2022 COLA Memorandum:
<https://militarypay.defense.gov/Pay/Retirement/cola/>

DRAS Spring Training for RSOs

For RSOs who are interested in learning more about the Defense Retiree/Annuitant Pay System (DRAS), DFAS will be offering a class consisting of 10 sessions starting April 1, 2022. The article in this issue provides details of what will be covered in the class.

If you are interested in joining the next cohort please contact one of the following POCs:

- Liz Caris (elizabeth.a.caris.civ@mail.mil)
- Aisha Campbell (aisha.s.campbell.civ@mail.mil)
- Karen Hammond (karen.m.hammond4.civ@mail.mil)

Spots are limited, so if you are interested please reach out to one of the POCs as soon as possible and NLT March 11, 2022. For those who miss the spring training, we will offer the class again in the fall.

More Customer-Facing Online Upload Tools and Status Notifications

We added to the customer-facing askDFAS online upload tools that make it easier for customers to submit items online for processing. Customers who submit forms to the customer-facing online upload tools will also receive status notifications. See the article in this issue for more information.

ROE Simplification

We are working to simplify the process of verifying continuing eligibility for retirees. The newest change reduces the number of retirees who need to submit a Report of Existence (ROE). Find out more in the article in this issue.

Erroneous Auto SBP

We are aware that a small number of new retirees who stated on their 2656 they had no eligible SBP beneficiaries were erroneously placed in automatic SBP (Auto SBP). This was a system workflow misrouting that we identified and fixed. If you have any cases of this nature, please email the liaison email box with the details and we will promptly correct the error. Any SBP premiums erroneously deducted from retired pay will be credited to the retiree.

System Access Requests for RSOs

To obtain system accesses, please reach out via the R&A Liaison email (dfas.cleveland-oh.jfb.mbx.service-liaison@mail.mil). Please note that this mailbox is for Branch of Service personnel ONLY; do not share this with customers.

For branch of service personnel only

DFAS Service Liaison phone

216-522-6393

For branch of service personnel only

DFAS Service Liaison email

dfas.cleveland-oh.jfb.mbx.service-liaison@mail.mil

Lists of Retiree Publications on Websites on line:

Army(Echoes): <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Navy(Shift Colors): <http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil>

Air Force (Afterburner): <http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner>

Marine Corps(Semper Fidelis) <http://www.usmc-mccs.org>

Coast Guard (Evening Colors) <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgl/psc/ras>

Mil Retiree Space A Lodging <http://www.dodlodging.net>
All Services (Gov./Mil.) information

DFAS/My Pay <http://www.dfas.mil> Tricare <http://www.tricare.mil>
Defense Eligibility(DEERS) <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil> Phone-1-800-538-9522
Military Records <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>
Casualty Assistance <http://militaryonesource.mil/casualty>
General News and Info <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

AMC Travel Space A <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel>
AMC Space A Travel Page <http://www.spacea.net>
Space A travel Documents <http://www.amc.af.mil/shared/media/document/afd-140423-118.pdf>

Military Burial Honors Eligibility:

DOD Policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service.

Core Elements include playing of TAPS, Folding the American Flag, and presenting the American Flag to the family.

DOD is required to provide a (two-service member) detail; policy encourages each service to provide elements as firing team and pallbearers. They can be provided by Veteran Service Organizations.

