



111TH ATTACK WING RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

BIDDLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, PA



Newsletter Vol. 9 Issue #3 Fall 2024

OUR MISSION

The 111th Attack Wing Retiree Activities Office (RAO) 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.

This Newsletter is a publication of the 111th ATKW/RAO, that serves as the interface between the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees, their families, and surviving spouses residing in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Information, provided in this publication, has been edited and does not reflect the official policy of any U.S. Government agency.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The 111th Attack Wing Retiree Activities Office is located:

111th Attack Wing /RAO/ CVR
1051 Fairchild Street
Building 203, Room 168
(Mailbox 16/ Bldg 310)
Biddle ANGB, PA 19044-5203
Telephone 215-323-7135

Our hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m.–3:00p.m. and also Saturday and Sunday of the 111th Drill/UTA 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Telephone 215-323-7135, please leave a message if no answer.

YOUR RAO LEADERSHIP

CMSgt Jenny Pappas, Director

MSgt Vincent Acquaviva, Co-Director

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Dorothy L. Acquaviva
Rufus Butler
Cathy Hopely
Joe Hopely

Hal Krebs
Robert Maiuro
William Nilsson

Dave Olson
Mark Wilby
Paul Vezzetti



AIR FORCE RETIREE SERVICES

- Our parent agency is the Air Force Retiree Services, located at AFPC/DPFFF, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph TX.
- They are a wealth of information, and resources and can be found at:
<https://www.retirees.af.mil/>
- From their webpage you can gain access to retiree specific news, the Afterburner, find answer to many Frequently Asked Question (FAQs), an extensive resource library, survivor Benefits, and much, much more.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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LIST OF MILITARY SERVICE RETIREE AGENCIES AND PUBLICATIONS

- US Army Retiree Service (Echoes):
<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes>
- Navy Retirees (Shift Colors): <http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil>
- Air Force (Afterburner):
<https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>
- Marine Corps Retiree Service (Semper Fidelis):
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Retirees/100064789173687/>
- Coast Guard Retiree Service (Evening Colors):
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/>



OPEN SEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **TRICARE Open Season**

- o The TRICARE Open Season is an annual period when you can enroll in, change, or disenroll from a TRICARE health plan. In 2024, the open season runs from November 11 to December 10. Changes you make during the open season go into effect January 1, 2025.

- o More information can be found at <https://www.tricare.mil/openseason>

- o Keep up to date by subscribing to the “My TRICARE Health Matters Newsletter”. You can have your newsletter delivered to your email inbox or simply view it online on the TRICARE Publications page at

<https://www.tricare.mil/GettingCare/PatientResources/GoPaperless/Newsletters>



- **FEDVIP** – Dental and Vision and FEHB Open Seasons - The Federal Benefits Open Season is your annual opportunity to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan. Each year, open season runs from the Monday of the second full work week in November through the Monday of the second full work week in December. More information can be found at: <https://www.benefeds.com/>

Medicare.gov

- **MEDICARE** Open Enrollment Period (OEP) - The Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) for 2024 is as follows:

- o Starts: October 15, 2024 Ends: December 7, 2024
- o During this period, you can sign up for a plan, switch plans, or leave a plan.
- o New Medicare coverage begins on January 1, 2025
- o More information can be found at: <https://www.medicare.gov/>

www.111attackwing.ang.af.mil/

www.facebook.com/111thATKW



HOW TO CLAIM A RETIREE'S ARREARS OF PAY

Did you know, if a Retiree, drawing a pension passes away; their beneficiaries are entitled to make a claim for a Retiree's Arrears of Pay? Arrears of Pay (AOP) is a one-time payment, usually less than one month's pay, made to the AOP beneficiary after the death of a retiree. Arrears of Pay (AOP) is not a death benefit.

The Arrears of Pay payment to the beneficiary is *the pro-rated amount of the retiree's final month's pay. And, if applicable, any other money owed to the retiree at the time of their death.*

To make a claim for money due to a retiree after their death, complete and submit an SF 1174 with a copy of the death certificate listing the cause of death. P

<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/1174RetireeAOP/>

NEW ID CARDS BEING ISSUED FOR MILITARY RETIREES AND DEPENDENTS

Time to start planning, the Defense Department began issuing Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Cards on July 31, 2020; the complete transition to the new ID card, is targeted for January 2026. At that time, legacy USID card will no longer work or be accepted.

Graphic for Next Generation Uniform Services ID card change over



In the meantime, the current cards will continue to work. Beginning in 2026, the legacy Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card will no longer be accepted for access to benefits, privileges, or DoD bases.

According to the DoD Common Access Card website, USID cards are issued to retired military and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy.

In the wake of the Real ID Act, the DoD also terminated the civilian retiree ID card in August 2023, stating that civilian retirees were to present their retirement documents to enroll a Real ID act-compliant driver's license as an alternate to the DoD civilian retiree ID card.

Eligible members still using a legacy USID card are encouraged to make appointments with their local DoD ID card facility as soon as possible to avoid any access issues in the future. Military retirees and dependents can find more information, to include locations and phone numbers, and book appointments online by visiting <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>.

For more information go to the DoD Common Access Card Web Site:
<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/>

Graphic for Next Generation Uniform Services ID card change over



IF YOU HAVE AN OLD ONE, GET A NEW ID!

EVENTS, HAPPENINGS, AND REUNIONS

- **Informal 913th AW Monthly Breakfast at VFW Red Hill Post 5954**
 - Second Monday Every Month, 0800-1100, event open to the public Do not need to be a VFW member.
 - More information can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/219908564701542/user/100076385822850>
- **512th / 913th Willow Grove Air Reserve Association Reunion**
 - Next gathering of Eagles - September 2025
 - Location: Fountain Side Seafood & Grill 537 Easton Rd, Horsham, PA 19044
 - Contacts: Bob Simpson 215 659-1181, John Windfelder 215 657-0720, Neil & JoAnn Franklin 215 699-8205 Email Information: c130.wgarf@verizon.net
- **Annual Friend of the 111th Family Readiness Group Golf Outing**
 - Date: September 2025
 - Contact: Jenny Pappas, Cell (215) 740-5468, email: FriendsofFRG@gmail.com
- **Annual 111th Wing Reunion Luncheon**
 - Date: April 2025 Time: Details TBD
 - Location: TBD
 - More details to follow under separate email.
 - Contact: Jenny Pappas, Cell (215) 740-5468, email: FriendsofFRG@gmail.com
- **UNOFFICIAL 111TH AND 913TH VETERANS AND RETIREE GROUPS**
 - **111TH Fighter Wing Friends** www.facebook.com/groups/439096756426502/
 - **111TH Fighter Wing (UNOFFICIAL)** www.facebook.com/groups/112383465447507/
 - **Willow Grove WARDAWGS !!** www.facebook.com/groups/68968424941
 - **913 Airlift Wing Alumni** www.facebook.com/groups/73569486328
 - **913TH Airlift Wing Friends** www.facebook.com/groups/219908564701542
 - **913TH Security Forces** www.facebook.com/groups/88915076111
 - **913TH Annual Reunion** www.facebook.com/events/191159157245208
 - **31ST Aerial Port Squadron** www.facebook.com/groups/198150514240/

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THESE VETERANS AND RETIREE GROUPS DOES NOT REFLECT OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THEIR INCLUSION IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

The appearance of external links on this publication does not constitute official endorsement on behalf of the U.S. Air Force or Department of Defense.



Army



Marine Corps



Navy



Air Force



Space Force



Coast Guard



National Guard



KEY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- **MyAirForceBenefits** is the Official Air Force Benefits Website, and can be a great initial starting place to find information about your benefits.
<https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil>
- **Casualty Assistance** - Call toll free 877-353-6807.
<https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/Casualty-and-Survivor-Assistance>
 - The local Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst AF SBP/Casualty Assistance telephone number 609-754-3814. Point of Contact Ms. Donna Gauze.
- **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) Telephone Center** - Call DEERS at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays, 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific time.
- **Identification Cards** - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or visit the site locator. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator>
- **milCONNECT** - With milConnect, Department of Defense (DoD) affiliates and beneficiaries manage their benefits and records through the self-service portal.
<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>
 - You can manage and view your health benefits
 - Update you and your family's DEERs records
 - Find and schedule an appointment for your Identification cards.
- **Defense Finance and Accounting Service** - The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080. Visit the retired military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matters such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more. <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/>
- **Legal Offices** - Assists members with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answers certain legal questions. Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.
- **TRICARE** <https://tricare.mil/>
- **Veterans Affairs** - For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-6947. You can visit their website at www.va.gov/.



FOR MORE NEWS FROM THE 111TH ATKW:

Download media at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/111ATKW>

For more news visit: <https://www.111attackwing.ang.af.mil/>

Follow the Wing on X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/111ATKW>

Follow the Wing on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/111thATKW>

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**RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE
BIDDLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE
HORSHAM, PA
215-323-7135**



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DEERS/ID OFFICE

Biddle ANGB, 111th FSS, Horsham, PA	215-323-7419
NSA Philadelphia, 700 Robbins Ave BLD 10	215-697-2177
NSWC, PHILADELPHIA, 4700 S. Broad ST	215-897-7001
JBMDL FT. DIX, 5418 S. Scott Plaza	609-562-2177
MCGUIRE AFB 2916 Falcon Ln	609-754-5774
Dover AFB, 520 Main Gate Way	302-677-3010
<u>111th ATKW Airman & Family Readiness</u>	215-323-7132
Contact Ms. Anna Ritchar	

TRICARE

TRICARE For Life	866-773-0405
TRICARE East	800-444-5445
TRICARE West	844-866-9378
TRICARE Pharmacy (Express Scripts)	877-363-1303

US Family Health Plan

Contact Ms. Tammy Cartegena (Help with insurance & TRICARE questions)

Air Force Total Force Service Center (ARPC)	800-525-0102
ARPC Reserve Retirement Counseling Cell	800-682-1929
Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS)	800-321-1080
Office of Personnel Management (OPM)	888-767-6738
Social Security / Medicare	800-772-1213

Veterans Affairs

VA Benefits Hotline	800-827-1000
VA Health Benefits Hotline	877-222-8387
Philadelphia - VA Crescenz Medical Center	215-823-5800
Coatesville VA Medical Center	610-384-7711
Horsham - Saracini Outpatient Clinic	215-823-6050
Allentown VA Clinic	610-776-4304

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