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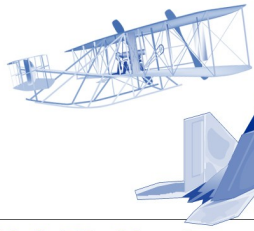
*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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# Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel



Vol. 52, No. 1

AFRP 36-1

September 2010

## CSAF sends message to retiree family

*The Air Force treasures its retiree community. Today's Air Force is a living memorial to you — our retirees — and to your service in years past. Every day, visible manifestations of your contributions abound. From high-technology systems to mission-focused Airmen, our Air Force continues to be the highly capable institution that you boldly envisioned and carefully forged and cultivated. Our effectiveness and reliability today are a consequence of your years of commitment, service and sacrifice.*

*For these reasons and many more, today's 600,000 total force Airmen are proud to take part in this rich and storied Air Force heritage, and to carry the mantle forward into the second decade of the 21st century. Each day, our Airmen, including the more than 39,000 who are deployed to 260 locations*

*around the world, serve their country with distinction, providing air, space and cyber effects that prove, time and again, their enormous*

*value to the success of the joint U.S. military team.*

*Retirees, this is your legacy — the results of your leadership, loyalty, innovation and creativity from your years of honorable service. When*

*today's Air Force is rightly hailed for its merit, you — the retirees, spouses and extended family members — share in that praise because of the foundation of success that you helped to establish. Certainly, retirees remain valued members of our family of Airmen.*

*Therefore, the needs of the 790,000 members of the retiree community are important to us — be they health care services, survivor benefits or appropriate cost of living adjustments. These unique concerns must be articulated and understood properly, which is why the Air Force Retiree Council is so essential to the Air Force — and to me, personally. Recently, I attended the 37th annual meeting of the council and had the privilege of discussing key retiree issues and witnessing firsthand the pride, sincerity, and dedication of its 19 members as they championed*

*your interests. I am very grateful for their efforts in deliberating and acting upon the concerns and issues that affect you — our alumni.*

*It is difficult to overstate the importance of our retiree community to our Air Force and our nation. We are grateful for your hallmark service to our country and for your professional ethic, loyalty and determination that are*

***“It is difficult to overstate the importance of our retiree community to our Air Force and our nation.”***



*now embodied in our Air Force Core Values of Integrity, Service and Excellence. You who once donned Air Force Blue and served our nation now are our schoolteachers, counselors, coaches, entrepreneurs, community leaders and more — still benefitting us with your generosity, enriching us with your creativity and affording us your considerable talents. And, wherever you serve and share your substantial experience, you continue to represent the Air Force in very honorable and noteworthy ways. On behalf of all Airmen still serving, I am, as always, privileged to take note of and thank you for your service — both past and present.*

**Gen. Norton Schwartz**  
Air Force Chief of Staff

[www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

# Correct postal address challenge continues

I'd like to address (pun intended) the issue of addresses. Postal mailing addresses to be specific.

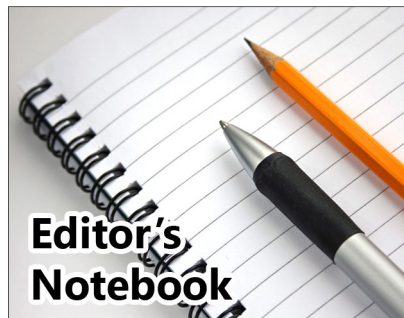
It seems that getting the retiree community in tune with change-of-address procedures, and to understand the importance of keeping their mailing address current and correct, is more difficult than herding cats!

First off -- and this is very, very important -- **Air Force Retiree Services does not maintain mailing addresses**, not even for the *Afterburner*.

This fact has been mentioned time and again in previous *Afterburners*, yet the bulk of the mail received is change-of-address notifications. The *Afterburner* staff is small (one person) and can't possibly maintain nearly 790,000 addresses, so that is why *Afterburner* mailing labels are generated using information on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. When it's time to mail an *Afterburner* out, a cry for help goes out to DFAS and the experts there

prepare a listing of all retiree and annuitant addresses based on what people have listed for their address.

Sometimes "fat fingering" occurs when Joe Retiree/Mary Annuitant enter a change of address online; it may occur when calling the 800



number with a change; or in info sent to DFAS. Unfortunately, if the address is input incorrectly, e.g. 123 WMain Street, Anytown, TX 12345-6789, and the correct way the post office has that address is 123 W Main Street, Anytown, TX 12345-6789, the address will be rejected by the computer program used by the publisher to check for such things. If it's not an accepted U.S. Postal

Service address, nothing gets mailed to it.

With Direct Deposit, many retirees/annuitants forget about changing their addresses with DFAS when they physically move because they do not change banks. What they fail to realize is even though their check is not mailed to their physical address, DFAS and other organizations use that correspondence address file to mail important information such as retiree account statements, 1099R tax forms, Tricare, and other important documents.

If you ever need to change your address, here's all you need to know:

Air Force retired members and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants should call DFAS at 800-321-1080 to change their correspondence address. Those with a myPay account can make the changes online. The fax number is 800-469-6559 for retirees, and 800-982-8459 for annuitants. The address is DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130 for retired members; and DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131 for annuitants. **ONLY** survivors who do not receive SBP payments may change their address by writing to HQ AFPC/DPSIAR, 550 C Street West Ste 8, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4713.

## **Afterburner** News for USAF Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed three times a year by Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs. Distribution: Individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay; unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unremarried nonannuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay, may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below. The *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services. Additional copies are not available. The *Afterburner* address:

AFPC/PA  
550 C Street W Ste 43  
Randolph AFB TX 78150

E-mail address is [afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil) and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. The *Afterburner* is available on the Internet at [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil). Retirees may write to the Co-chairmen of the Air Force Retiree Council at: AFPC/CCU, 550 C Street W Ste 43, Randolph AFB TX 78150. To change your address to receive the *Afterburner* and other official correspondence, see the procedures information in this issue.

### In Memoriam

**Retired Chief Master Sgt. Arthur W. DeBaun Jr., died July 28, 2010. He was a veteran of World War II, and editor of the *Afterburner* from 1981 to 1991. He is survived by his brother, a son and daughter, and three great-grandchildren.**

## VA officials explain health care reform impact

Many veterans have questions about the new health care reform law. The Veterans Health Administration offers the following information about the law and its impact on VA medical care.

Nothing in the new law changes anything about VA health care.

The law contains many complex provisions, including many reforms to the practices of the health insurance industry.

Nothing in the new law changes anything about the Veterans' health care program.

Enrolled Veterans may still rely on VHA for their health care in the same manner as before the enactment of the new law.

Beginning in 2014, everyone will be required to have health care coverage.

The law requires that every individual must have some form of health care coverage. The coverage must meet a

minimum standard so that everyone will be able to have a minimum level of care.

Congress wrote into the law a provision that says the Veterans' health care program, administered by VHA, meets the standard for health care coverage.

Enrolled veterans do not have to purchase additional coverage.

Because the veterans' health care program meets the standard under the law, veterans enrolled in the VA health care program do not need to obtain additional health care coverage.

Veterans may continue to purchase additional coverage if they wish, but the law does not require them to do so.

This document addresses only the most pressing questions that have been raised. VHA officials will provide additional information about the new law as it develops. (VA)

## Retirees receiving CRSC eligible for travel benefit

### Lodging, fuel, parking and tolls among reimbursable expenses for people using Tricare benefit

Retirees receiving Combat-Related Special Compensation may be entitled to Tricare's CRSC travel benefit.

This Tricare benefit provides reimbursement for travel-related expenses when retirees must travel more than 100 miles from their referring provider's location to obtain medically necessary, non-emergency specialty care for a combat-related disability.

To qualify, retirees must reside stateside and be covered under Tricare Standard or Tricare For Life. (Tricare Prime enrollees, including those enrolled in the U.S. Family Health Plan, are eligible for the Tricare Prime Travel Benefit.)

In certain cases, one non-medical attendant may also be entitled to reimbursement of travel-related expenses if the referring medical provider verifies in writing that an attendant is medically necessary and appropriate to travel with you. The attendant can be a parent, spouse, or other adult family member age 21 or older, or a legal guardian.

Only reasonable, actual-cost travel expenses such as lodging, fuel (rather than mileage), meals, parking, and tolls associated with receiving specialty care can be reimbursed.

Retirees should contact their Tricare regional office for more information about reimbursable expenses and authorization requirements. (Tricare)

### Retiree council needs volunteers

Air Force volunteers are needed to represent five Air Force Retiree Council areas. For more details, contact the nearest Retiree Activities Office.

#### LEGEND

- **Area II** - California
- **Area III** - Arizona and New Mexico
- **Area VI** - Texas
- **Area IX** - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee
- **Area XI** - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia



# Retiree Council conducts annual meeting

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Retired Airmen will always have a voice thanks to the Air Force Retiree Council that meets annually at the Air Force Personnel Center here to discuss and act upon concerns and issues affecting nearly 790,000 retirees and surviving spouses.

This year's council met May 3 to 7 to review topics such as pay and benefits, medical care, and base-level retiree activities and support.

Retired Lt. Gen. Steven R. Polk and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 14 Gerald R. Murray, who were appointed by the Air Force chief of staff, currently serve as council co-chairmen. They lead council members who represent 15 geographical areas worldwide. The council may also appoint members at large who have expertise in medical care and other critical subject areas.

The Air Force Retiree Council is "a safety net for those of us who currently serve," explained Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.

The general visited this year's meeting and praised the council for "still serving" as a link between him and the Air Force's retired community. Although they no longer wear the uniform, Air Force retirees still represent the service.

"The retiree community is an extension of the active-duty Air Force," explains retired Col. Thomas R. Adams, who represents Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. "Retirees represent the Air Force as church and civic leaders, and volunteers. When the



**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz answers questions concerning base, community, educational and family matters with the Air Force Retiree Council during its 2010 conference hosted by the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. This was the 37th meeting for the Retiree Council, which meets annually. (U.S. Air Force photo/Steve Thuro)**

community views an Air Force retiree, it sees the mark of the Air Force, and it sees the training and experiences of Air Force careers embodied in men and women who served their country and now serve their community. The retiree represents the best advertising and recruiting tool of the Air Force."

Throughout the rest of the year, the area representatives provide oversight and guidance to 109 Retiree Activities Offices worldwide. Most RAOs are located on Air Force installations, and all are staffed by volunteers. The area representatives work with their RAO directors to select specific topics for each year's annual meeting based on what they glean from their respective retiree population.

The annual meeting "provides a great overview on issues affecting military members and retirees worldwide rather than our own little corner of the globe, plus it is a forum to discuss and find resolution to these issues," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Thomas P. Kelley who represents California.

This year's agenda topics were divided into two categories: concerns that require legislative change; and issues that can be addressed internally within the Department of Defense or other government agencies. For example, eliminating the offset between receiving a Survivor Benefit Plan annuity and the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation requires a change in law whereas expanding

customer service options offered by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can be done internally.

The council considered 20 submissions this year. Similar subjects were consolidated, and all were reviewed and a recommendation for action was made. These recommendations will be forwarded to the appropriate offices and officials.

Between discussions among the council members, the group heard from various senior leaders including the Air Force surgeon general, Army and Air Force Exchange Service commander, the director of the secretary of the Air Force legislative liaison office, and a representative of the Air Force Network Integration Center. They learned about current war operations plus plans for the future of the Air Force's personnel, weapons and mission.

"This was, by far, the best council meeting I have attended," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Burton Clyde who has represented Arizona and New Mexico for three years. "The visible support of our active-duty leaders for retirees was evident by the appearance of senior staff and others."

"The 're-bluing' provided by the active force at the council keeps us current," added retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles E. Lucas who represents Delaware, the District of Columbia and Maryland.

The council also heard from representatives of Tricare, Delta Dental, Veterans Affairs, DFAS, and the Military Coalition. AFPC briefers covered various topics such as the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, Combat-Related Special Compensation, identification cards, and current and future personnel challenges. Council members also attended a Basic Military Training graduation at Lackland Air Force Base.

The council co-chairmen will meet with General Schwartz later this year to discuss the council's findings and other matters related to the Air Force retirees.

As the Year of the Air Force Family winds down, General Schwartz believes that when people talk about today's Air Force as a whole they must include its retirees, family members and survivors.

"Everyone is valued, and that includes our alumni," explained General Schwartz. He lauded Air Force retirees who volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours at bases worldwide saving millions of dollars.

The chief of staff had nothing but praise for the council's hard work and dedication.

"Thank you for the way you continue to still serve," he said. (AFRNS)

## 2010 Air Force Retiree Council Agenda Topics

1. Resume mail delivery of Afterburner.
2. Eliminate Survivor Benefit Plan Annuity and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset.
3. Retain DIC for survivors who remarry after age 55 vice 57.
4. Stop paying SBP premiums when retirees have paid for 30 years and reach age 67 vice 70.
5. Eliminate recoupment of arrears of retired pay from survivors of deceased members.
6. Prevent unreasonable increases in Tricare fees.
7. Establish Tricare Help Center in the Philippines.
8. Enhance service for Tricare for Life retirees in Panama.
9. Establish equitable Medicare reimbursement schedule.
10. Expand use of the Tricare "home delivery" for prescriptions.
11. Re-establish health screenings vice health fairs at Retiree Appreciation Days.
12. Continue APO and FPO mail service for retirees in Panama, the Pacific and European theaters.
13. Improve retiree and annuitant customer service from Defense Finance and Accounting Service.
14. Ensure funding for base-level Retiree Activities Office activities.
15. Issue Volunteer Logical Access Credential or Alternate Token cards for volunteers needing access to Air Force computer systems in Retiree Activities Offices.
16. Standardize computer and communication support for Retiree Activities Offices at all bases.
17. Establish an award program for Air Force veterans and supporters of active-duty Airmen.
18. Obtain commercial Internet service provider for Retiree Activities Offices in the continental United States.
19. Establish a Department of Defense Education Activity tuition sub-category for dependent minors of U.S. military retirees.
20. Conduct joint-service Retiree Appreciation Days vice separate service events at joint bases.

# Survivor pay procedures can cause surprises

Being familiar with retiree arrears -of-pay procedures now can prevent surprises for your survivors upon your death. Many retirees believe their survivors will be paid for the entire month, but at this time, that is not the case.

Retiree arrears of pay is any pay due the retiree but unpaid at the time of their death, to which a named beneficiary is entitled. Typically, this is a prorated amount that covers the first day of the month through the retiree's date of death.

The retirement pay of a military member stops on the first day of the month in which the retiree dies; therefore, all pay deposited after the date of death -- including pay deposited for that month -- is automatically recouped by Defense Finance and Accounting Service

from the retiree's direct deposit account. After a complete audit of the retirement account, any arrears of pay is calculated and paid to the retiree's named beneficiary.

Arrears-of-pay distribution is based exclusively on the retiree's beneficiary election on their retired pay account. If no beneficiary was elected on the retired pay account, payment will be distributed in accordance with federally mandated legal order of precedence.

Prompt reporting of a retiree's death is necessary to avoid extensive recoupment of unearned payments.

Two documents are needed to



process an arrears-of-pay claim: a completed Standard Form 1174 for each designated beneficiary, and a copy of the retiree's death certificate that specifies the cause of death.

Fax these documents to 800-469-6559, or mail to DFAS at P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130.

Questions can be directed to DFAS at 800-321-1080.

## Air Force offers spouses new hiring authority

### Retirees, surviving spouses can use authority for permanent, term or temporary positions on USAJobs

Some retiree spouses and surviving military spouses may now apply for Air Force jobs using a new hiring authority. This hiring mechanism gives select populations status, making them eligible for consideration for certain federal positions.

Those with "status" have some current or former connection with federal government employment or military service.

Included in this eligibility are spouses of Airmen with a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent, or un-remarried widows or widowers of Airmen who were killed or died while on active-duty status.

This authority can be used for permanent, term or temporary positions.

Jobs using this hiring authority are listed on USAJobs

at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). Check the "Qualifications and Evaluations" tab in the job announcement to determine if this hiring authority is being used.

This new authority is not a hiring preference. The eligibility and intent of this hiring authority is to provide employment access for certain spouses who are impacted because of their military spouse's death or incapacitation.

There is no grade-level limitation. Spouses must apply to a vacancy announcement on USAJobs and must be qualified for the position.

This source can be found under External Recruitment sources, Certain Military Spouses – Executive Order 13473.

Under this eligibility, there is no limit to the number of appointments during the eligibility period and there is no geographical location restriction.

Eligibility period is for two years from the date of the documentation verifying the member is 100 percent disabled, or from the date of documentation verifying the Airmen was killed or died while on active duty. (AFPC)

# Bases get new names in realignment

by Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Some military installations have new names as joint basing continues.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's directive consolidating 26 stateside military installations into 12 joint bases has brought names such as Lewis-McChord, Langley-Eustis, and even the trilateral McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst into the lexicon of military installations.

While each joint base has its own unique challenges and experiences, the process created much-needed uniformity in directing 49 like functions for each base, said Air Force Col. Michael "Mickey" Addison, the Defense Department's deputy director of joint basing.

"One of the benefits of joint basing is in learning how to talk to each other," he said. "We all had different languages. If you say 'emergency response' to a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine, you may get four different ideas of what that means."

Joint basing isn't new, Colonel Addison pointed out. The military has used it for years in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia. Still, he said, the concept met with some resistance stateside.

"We know how to fight jointly," Addison said.



Staff Sgt. Jeffery Cardinal, left, and Craig Hayes, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, drill holes in the new Joint Base Lewis-McChord sign at the main gate Sunday in preparation of Initial Operational Capability of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Abner Guzman)

"We've gotten really good at that in the past 10 or 20 years. What we aren't as good at yet is living together back in the [continental United States]."

The BRAC commission created the joint bases to bring efficiencies, common practices and cost savings to bases that were duplicating efforts, even while most shared a fence line, Colonel Addison said. One of the biggest challenges has been to assuage fears that joint basing strips services of their culture and heritage, he said.

"That's the hardest thing for our base commanders to do is to assure people that nothing will be lost, then build a joint culture that preserves the cultures and what is special about each," Colonel Addison said.

## Seven bases received new names in January:

- Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base became Joint Base Lewis-McChord, led by the Army;
- The Navy's Anacostia Annex and Bolling Air Force Base here became Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, led by the Navy;
- Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, became Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, led by the Navy;
- Charleston Air Force Base and Naval Weapons Station Charleston, S.C., became Joint Base Charleston, led by the Air Force;
- Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson, Alaska, became Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, led by the Air Force;
- Lackland and Randolph Air Force bases and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, became Joint Base San Antonio, led by the Air Force; and
- Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis in Virginia became Joint Base Langley-Eustis, led by the Air Force.

## Five others became joint bases in October when:

- Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek and Fort Story in Virginia became Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, led by the Navy;
- Fort Myer and the Marine Corps' Henderson Hall in Virginia became Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, led by the Army;
- Andrews Air Force Base and Naval Air Facility Washington, in Maryland, became Joint Base Andrews, led by the Air Force;
- McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, all in New Jersey, became Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, led by the Air Force; and
- Navy Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base in Guam became Joint Region Marianas, led by the Navy.



# The Way Ahead

## CSAF Vector 2010 provides Air Force direction

by **Janie Santos**

Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

The Air Force's senior military leader released his vision for the future in a recent CSAF Vector 2010 that outlined five priorities and the "way ahead" for Airmen to maintain these priorities.

"Our Airmen are responding to the nation's call with agility, innovation and expeditionary presence -- today, nearly 40,000 American Airmen are deployed to 263 locations across the globe," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said.

"We've also demonstrated that modern warfighting isn't just about how many are 'over there.'

"Our deployed-in-place Airmen are indispensable to the day-to-day defense of our nation, whether they are tracking and dispatching bad actors at intercontinental range, maintaining constant vigilance from space, sustaining credible strategic

deterrence, protecting networks, or patrolling the skies over the homeland," General Schwartz said.

In his "Vector," General Schwartz discusses continuing to strengthen the Air Force nuclear enterprise, partnering with the joint and coalition team for today's fight, developing and caring for Airmen, modernizing inventories and training, and recapturing acquisition excellence.

"Since I became your chief we have had to make some tough deci-

sions, primarily focused on three challenges: restoring credibility to our nuclear enterprise, enhancing our contribution to today's fight, and recapturing acquisition excellence," he said. "As demanding as we will continue to be in those areas, I am pleased with the progress we've made to date; but also believe we must seize this moment and look ahead."

To read this Vector and other senior leader viewpoints, go to the information section on [www.AF.mil](http://www.AF.mil).  
(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

### THE WAY AHEAD

1. *Continue to Strengthen the Air Force Nuclear Enterprise*
2. *Partner with the Joint and Coalition Team to Win Today's Fight*
3. *Develop and Care for Airmen and their Families*
4. *Modernize our Air and Space Inventories, Organizations, and Training*
5. *Recapture Acquisition Excellence*



### Toll-Free Phone Numbers

Defense Finance and Accounting Service: 800-321-1080  
Casualty Assistance: 877-353-6807  
Total Force Service Center: 800-525-0102  
Veterans Affairs: 800-827-1000



### Online Web Links

Air Force Retirees: <http://www.retirees.af.mil>  
AF Wounded Warrior: <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil>  
Veterans Affairs: <http://www.va.gov>

# RESOURCES

# Air Force villages offer assistance, care

By **Jan Schubert**  
Air Force Villages

Madelyn walks every morning in the Texas sunshine, serenaded by songbirds – a ritual that precedes a healthy breakfast with old friends. Bonnie awakens each morning to warmth and a glass of fresh orange juice – the perks of living in Florida.

These women share a common bond, although they've never met. They are both widows of retired Airmen. Both have suffered extreme financial stresses. Madelyn's husband, a retired Air Force major, died at home after a lengthy and costly illness that devastated their savings and forced Madelyn to sell her home to pay medical bills. Bonnie's husband, a retired AF sergeant, died in his 40s, leaving his wife to raise three children by herself on a small fixed income.

Today, Madelyn and Bonnie are over 80 – too old to work and unable to afford a retirement home. Frequent military moves left them without careers, home equities, retirement plans or any significant assets. Madelyn and Bonnie could have fallen through the cracks of elder poverty.

Fortunately for Madelyn, Bonnie and thousands of other Air Force widows over the years, they are able to live in comfort and security, surrounded by a network of friends and caring staff in retirement communities that are supported by their Air Force family. They are living out an Air Force motto: Taking Care of Our Own.

Madelyn lives at Air Force Village in San Antonio which provides

a comfortable and secure home to retired Air Force officer widows in need of financial assistance. AFV was the dream of the Air Force officers' wives' clubs and was brought to fruition by Air Force Chief of Staff Curtis LeMay and his wife, Helen. The first contribution of \$9 grew to more than \$1 million, launching the dream to reality.

Since opening in 1970, AFV has provided financial assistance to more than 500 widows who have outlived their resources. More than 1,200 retired military commissioned and warrant officers and their spouses call AFV home – but widows in need are always afforded priority. While the majority of AFV residents live independently in apartments and private homes, they have access to a full continuum of health care at AFV –

from assisted living to skilled care to dementia care.

Bonnie resides at Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) in Shalimar, Florida – which includes Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida; Bob Hope Village in Shalimar; and Hawthorn House – a 64-unit assisted living complex on the Bob Hope Village campus that offers continued independence with a licensed nurse on staff 24 hours a day.

For more information about either of these communities, visit their respective Web sites at [www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com) and [www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org).

*(Editor's Note: To protect the identity and dignity of the widows we serve, the names Bonnie and Madelyn are pseudonyms.)*

## Should I salute or place my hand over my heart?

Public Law 110-181 states "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

To clarify, retirees may salute or place their hand over their heart to render respect to the U.S. flag.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Josh Plueger

# Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Retiree Activities Offices are made up of volunteers from all services including surviving spouses. Their charter is to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, Reserve or Guard base through command channels that will assist retirees with myriad actions. These actions include: serving as an information center for space-available travel, Tricare, base services, etc; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters;

counseling active-duty Airmen nearing retirement; and providing literature on retirement issues. Another major activity involves working with base agencies to set up Retiree Activity Day events offering briefings by different base agencies on respective services, tax preparation and advice, staff judge advocate assistance, base tours, etc.

The following is a listing of Air Force-wide established RAOs by state:

## United States

### Alabama

**Maxwell**  
Phone: (334) 953-6725  
e-mail: retiree.affairs@maxwell.af.mil

### Alaska

**Elmendorf**  
Phone: (907) 552-2337/5532  
e-mail: elainepfeiffer@hotmail.com

### Arizona

**Davis-Monthan**  
Phone: (520) 228-5100  
e-mail: retired@dm.af.mil  
**Luke**  
Phone: (623) 856-3923  
e-mail: rao@luke.af.mil

### Arkansas

**Little Rock**  
Phone: (501) 987-6095, (877) 815-3111  
e-mail: john.heffernan@littlerock.af.mil

### California

**Beale**  
Phone: (916) 634-2157  
e-mail: tpage57@hotmail.com  
**Edwards**  
Phone: (661) 277-0237/4931  
e-mail: 95abw.rao@edwards.af.mil  
**Los Angeles**  
Phone: (310) 653-5144  
e-mail: rao.laafb@gmail.com  
**March**  
Phone: (951) 655-4077/4079  
e-mail: rao@march.af.mil  
**McClellan**  
Phone: (916) 561-7507  
e-mail: george.moses@va.gov

### Onizuka

Phone: (650) 603-8047  
e-mail: none

### Travis

Phone: (707) 424-3904  
e-mail: joseph.rowan@travis.af.mil

### Vandenberg

Phone: (805)-606-5474  
e-mail: rao@vandenberg.af.mil

### Colorado

### Buckley

Phone: (720) 847-6693/9213  
e-mail: bob.vansciver@buckley.af.mil

### USAF Academy

Phone: (719) 333-1055  
e-mail: none

### Peterson

Phone: (719) 556-7153  
e-mail: pafbrao@peterson.af.mil

### Delaware

#### Dover

Phone: (302) 677-4612  
e-mail: Dover.RAO@us.af.mil

### District of Columbia

**Bolling**  
Phone: (202) 767-5244  
e-mail: rao@bolling.af.mil

### Florida

**Central Florida**  
Phone: (352) 430-1679  
e-mail: centralfloridarao@thevillages.net  
**Eglin**  
Phone: (850) 882-5916  
e-mail: jack.houlgate@eglin.af.mil

### Homestead

Phone: (305) 224-7580/7581  
e-mail: rao@homestead.af.mil

### Hurlburt Field

Phone: (850) 884-5443  
e-mail: rao@hurlburt.af.mil

### MacDill

Phone: (813) 828-4555  
e-mail: rao@macdill.af.mil

### Patrick

Phone: (321) 494-5464  
e-mail: rao@patrick.af.mil

### Tyndall

Phone: (850) 283-2737/8100  
e-mail: rao@tyndall.af.mil

### Georgia

#### Moody

Phone: (229) 257-3209  
e-mail: rao@moody.af.mil

#### Robins

Phone: (478) 327-4707  
e-mail: ernest.munson@robins.af.mil

### Hawaii

#### Hickam

Phone: (808) 449-0674  
e-mail: none

### Idaho

#### Mountain Home

Phone: (208) 828-4878  
e-mail: 366rao@acc.af.mil

### Illinois

#### Arlington Heights

Phone: (847) 506-7625  
Toll Free: (800) 741-4650 Ext 7625

e-mail: oharearlingtonrao@sbcglobal.net

#### Rantoul

Phone: (217) 893-1723 (answering machine)

e-mail: geneandjune@aol.com

#### Scott

Phone: (618) 256-5092  
e-mail: rao@scott.af.mil

### Indiana

#### Grissom Air Reserve Base

Phone: (765) 688-3002, 800-635-0961, Ext. 3002

e-mail: retiree.activities@grissom.af.mil

### Kansas

#### McConnell

Phone: (316) 759-3829  
e-mail: rao.mcconnell@mcconnell.af.mil

### Louisiana

#### Barksdale

Phone: (318) 456-5976  
Toll Free: (866) 544-2412  
e-mail: rao@barksdale.af.mil

### Maryland

#### Joint Base Andrews

Phone: (301) 981-2726/2180  
e-mail: rao@andrews.af.mil

### Massachusetts

#### Hanscom

Phone: (781) 377-2476  
e-mail: retiree@hanscom.af.mil

#### Otis

Phone: (508) 968-4175  
e-mail: raootis@gjs.net

#### Westover

Phone: (413) 557-3918/3424  
e-mail: raodir@westover.af.mil

### Michigan

#### Oscoda

Phone: (989) 739-2777

e-mail: mirao1@michiganx.net

### Minnesota

#### Minneapolis

Phone: (612) 713-1516  
e-mail: msp934rao@yahoo.com

### Mississippi

#### Columbus

Phone: (662) 434-3120  
e-mail: bowings2150@bellsouth.net

#### Keesler

Phone: (228) 376-8111/8112  
Toll Free: (800) 732-2984 Ext 8114  
e-mail: rao@us.af.mil

### Missouri

#### Jefferson Barracks

Phone: (314) 527-8212  
e-mail: Gerald.hansen@mostlo.af.mil

#### St Louis

Phone: (314) 527-6327  
e-mail: RAO@mostlo.af.mil

#### Whiteman

Phone: (660) 687-6457  
e-mail: rao@whiteman.af.mil

### Montana

#### Malmstrom

Phone: (406) 731-4751  
e-mail: denglo3138@bresnan.net

### Nebraska

#### Offutt

Phone: (402) 294-4566/2590  
e-mail: retiree.activity@offutt.af.mil

### Nevada

#### Nellis

Phone: (702) 652-9978  
e-mail: Jean.Putney@nellis.af.mil

### New Jersey

#### Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Phone: (609) 754-2459  
e-mail: mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil

### New Mexico

#### Cannon

Phone: (575) 784-4679  
e-mail: 27sow.cvr@cannon.af.mil

#### Kirtland

Phone: (505) 846-1536  
e-mail: Michael.Colbert@kirtland.af.mil

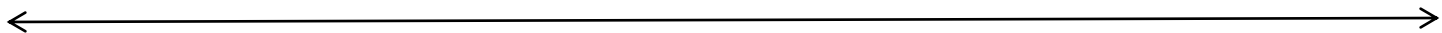


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