

## **SOLDIER FOR LIFE**

Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier...  
A Soldier for Life!



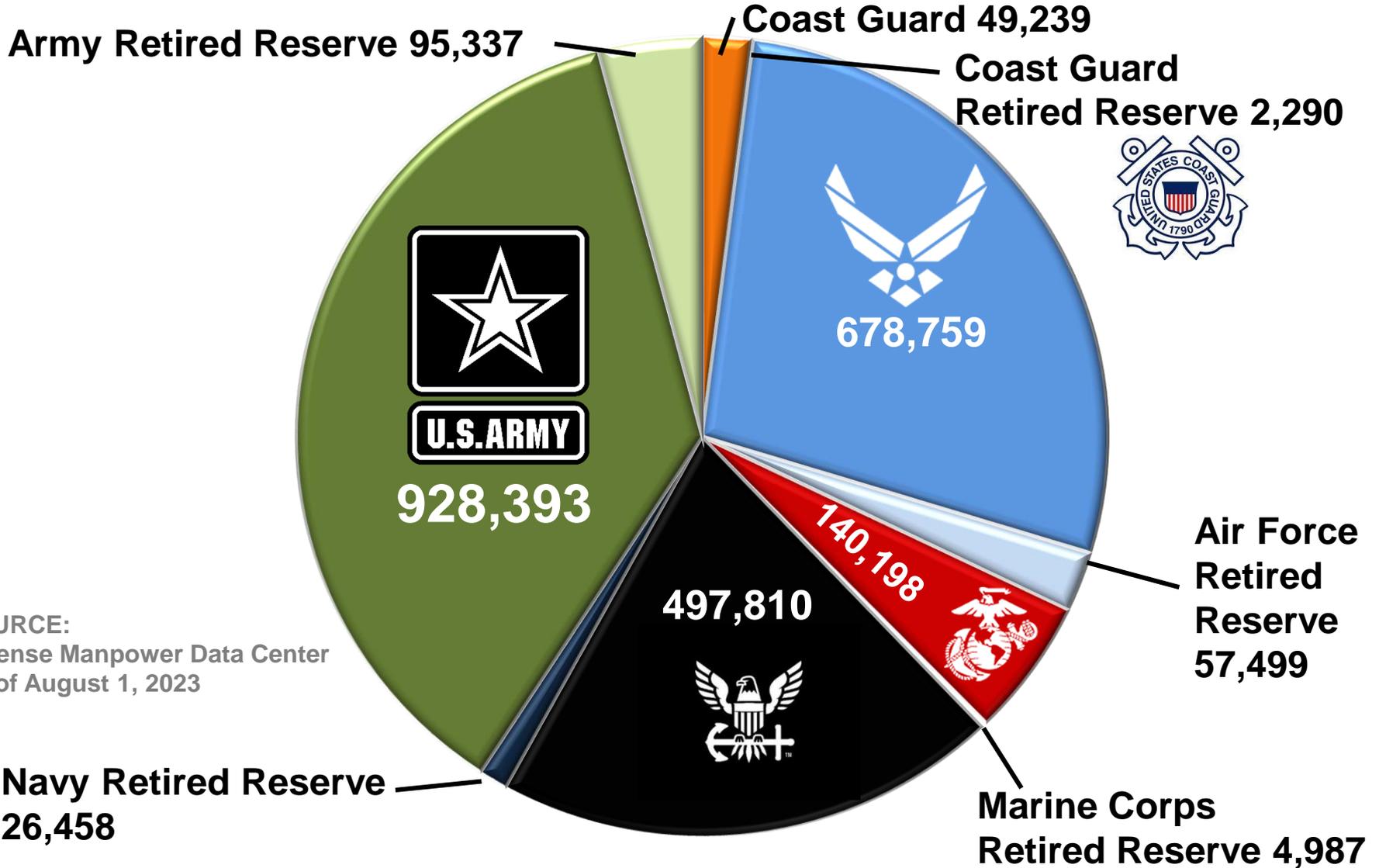
**Maria G. Bentinck** | Deputy Director, Army Retirement Services





U.S. ARMY

# Retired Service Member Roll Call!!

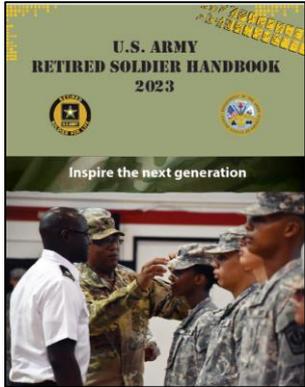


SOURCE:  
Defense Manpower Data Center  
As of August 1, 2023



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# The Army Retirement Services Website



**RETIRING OR RETIRED SOLDIER**

Soldier Retired Soldier Veteran Family Educator Employer Community Organization

[Contact Retirement Services](#)

Visit the Army Retirement Planning Toolkit:

- Retirement is a process, not an event.
- It may take as much time as a second job - start early.
- Understand how your retirement impacts others, especially your household-include your spouse/significant other in all retirement planning.
- Checklists to guide you in preparing for retirement from 36 months prior to retirement up through your retirement date.

**RETIREMENT PLANNING**

Retirement Planning U.S. Army Reserve U.S. Army National Guard The Survivor Benefit Plan Change of Mission

**POST RETIREMENT INFORMATION**

Retirement U.S. Army Retiree Appreciation Days Army Echoes Newsletter Army Echoes Blog CSA Retired Soldier Council

**SPOUSE INFORMATION**

Surviving Spouses Former Spouses



<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement>

Former Spouses



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# Army Echoes

- ✓ The Army's official publication for Retired Soldiers & surviving spouses
- ✓ Published electronically to anyone with an email address in myPay **including Gray Area Retired Soldiers!** Mailed to all others.
- ✓ Keep your email and correspondence address up-to-date in myPay
- ✓ Read the Blog at <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog>

**ECHOES**  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
FOR RETIRED SOLDIERS,  
SURVIVING SPOUSES & FAMILIES

**New clothing line to encourage conversation between Army veterans and civilians**

**WASHINGTON** - The Army recently launched the Soldier for Life clothing line to help Soldiers and Army veterans show their service pride and talk about their military experiences with people in their communities. Part of the aim of the distinctive Soldier for Life logo on the clothing is to prompt conversations between Soldiers, veterans and civilian Americans who are curious to know more about Army life.

Veterans, who now make up less than 7% of all Americans, have a critical role to play in educating the public about the Army and the value of military service. One-on-one engagements provide the American public a personal opportunity to meet veterans, exchange ideas, and strengthen their bonds with those who defend them.

The purpose of the U.S. Army's Soldier for Life Program is to engage Americans at all levels. One major program effort encourages Army veterans to share personal examples of how their military experiences shaped them, and how they continue to benefit them and their families since their service concluded.

The Army recently licensed hundreds of private companies to produce and sell clothing with the Soldier for Life logo. In addition, one of the Department of Defense's own retailers, the *Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)*, will sell Soldier for Life clothing in stores at 29 Army installations and through its online store.

There are two versions of the new Soldier for Life clothing. One, which is intended to be worn by Retired Soldiers, has the word "Retired" across the top of the Soldier for Life logo. The other is intended to be worn by current Soldiers and veterans who are still in the Army. These clothing items are completely optional, and Soldiers and veterans who want to engage with the public can purchase them at their own expense.

**AAFES stores at the following installations will initially sell the Soldier for Life clothing:**

Fort Belvoir, Virginia	United States Military Academy, West Point, New York
Fort Bliss, Texas	Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia (Fort Eustis)
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico	Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington (Fort Lewis)
Fort Campbell, Kentucky	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey (Fort Dix)
Fort Carson, Colorado	Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia (Fort Myer)
Fort Cavazos, Texas	Joint Base San Antonio, Texas (Fort Sam Houston)
Fort Drum, New York	United States Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany (Grafenwoer)
Fort Gordon, Georgia	United States Army Garrison Humphreys, Korea
Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia	United States Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany
Fort Jackson, South Carolina	United States Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany
Fort Knox, Kentucky	
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas	
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri	
Fort Liberty, North Carolina	
Fort Meade, Maryland	
Fort Moore, Georgia	
Fort Sill, Oklahoma	
Fort Stewart, Georgia	
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii	

**AUG - OCT 2023**

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SBP for surviving spouses and children of Soldiers who died in the line of duty ...10

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Once a Soldier. Always a Soldier... A Soldier for Life!

ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE



The **UPDATED** Army Echoes App



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# My Service Benefits

The Army's Official Benefits Website

The Air Force's Official Benefits Website

**MyArmyBenefits**  
The official military benefits website of the U.S. Army

Home | Benefit Library | Benefit Calculators | Media Kit | News | Help

Follow MyArmyBenefits on facebook--click here

MyArmyBenefits--the Official Military Benefits Website for Soldiers, Veterans, Retirees & Families

Finding Your Benefits is as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

- Browse Over 180 Fact Sheets for Benefit Eligibility and Highlights
- Calculate Estimates of Your Survivor and Survivor Education Benefits
- Forecast Your Retirement Benefits

Special information is provided for severely injured Soldiers and their families in the Wounded, Ill and Injured section of the site and for surviving family members of fallen Soldiers in the Casualty and Survivor Assistance section. If you have questions or comments please contact us.

**Infant Formula Shortage Relief Has Arrived**  
by Carolyn Alston

Parents are finding empty shelves on the baby supplies aisle in the grocery store where the infant formula is usually stocked. It's no secret there's a shortage of infant formula. It has

**PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE**

- Transition and Retirement Planning
- Survivor Benefits Planning
- Blended Retirement Calculator
- Casualty and Survivor Assistance
- Army Benefits Center--Civilian

**FEATURED VIDEOS**

- MAB Introduction
- Army Benefits Library
- Army Benefits Calculator

**DS LOGON**

A CAC or DS Logon Premium Account is required to access the MyArmyBenefits Calculators.

[REGISTER FOR DS LOGON](#)

**FEDERAL BENEFITS**

- By Category
- By Component
- By Life Event
- A to Z

**MYAIRFORCEBENEFITS**

Home | Benefit Library | Benefit Calculators | News | Help

Stay up to date with the Official Air Force COVID-19 guidance

**Celebrating a recent promotion? See how it affects your future retired pay here**

MyAirForceBenefits is an Official Air Force Benefits Website

If you have questions or comments please [contact us](#).

**Benefit Updates**

**Life Ensures Uncertainty – Prepare for the Unexpected**  
by Carolyn Alston, MyAFB Strategic Communications

While veterans have given life and limb for this country, life after combat continues to be a struggle for many. Soldiers often leave the military with lifelong impacts on their physical and mental health, making it difficult to garner benefits like life insurance.

The VALife program will ease the burden by offering guaranteed whole life insurance coverage. The face value of benefits will be available after premiums are paid during the initial two-year waiting period, which waives the need for medical underwriting. If the participant dies during the two-year waiting period, the beneficiary will receive the premiums plus interest.

The premium monthly rate will depend on the participant's age and amount of coverage elected. The VALife premiums are fixed and (more)

**Planning and Assistance**

- Transition and Retirement Planning
- Survivor Benefits Planning
- Blended Retirement Calculator
- Casualty and Survivor Assistance
- Government Retirement & Benefits Platform (AF Civilians)

**Featured Videos**

- Introduction to MyAirForceBenefits
- Benefit Library Introduction
- Calculator Demonstration

**DS Logon**

A CAC or DS Logon Premium Account is required to access the MyAirForceBenefits Calculators.

[Register for DS Logon](#)

<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil>

<https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil>



U.S. ARMY

# The CSA Retired Soldier Council

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/csa-retired-soldier-council>



## ***WE'RE RECRUITING!***

- Nominees due to Army G-1 by 17 November
- **TOTAL of 3 positions available:**  
(1) officer, (1) warrant officer, (1) NCO
- (1) female, (1) retired under Chapter 61

**How do I join?** Be nominated by an installation, State, or RD retiree council And be endorsed by the commander that council advises. ***Talk to your Retirement Services Officer!***

**What do they do??** Provide the Chief of Staff, Army with advice and recommendations regarding vital issues and concerns of Retired Soldiers, surviving spouses, and their families.

**12% Propensity to Serve**

**75% Little Knowledge of Military**

**77% Unqualified w/o waiver**

**44% recruits come from  
HS w/JROTC Program**

**83% Relative Served**

**<7% of Americans are Veterans**



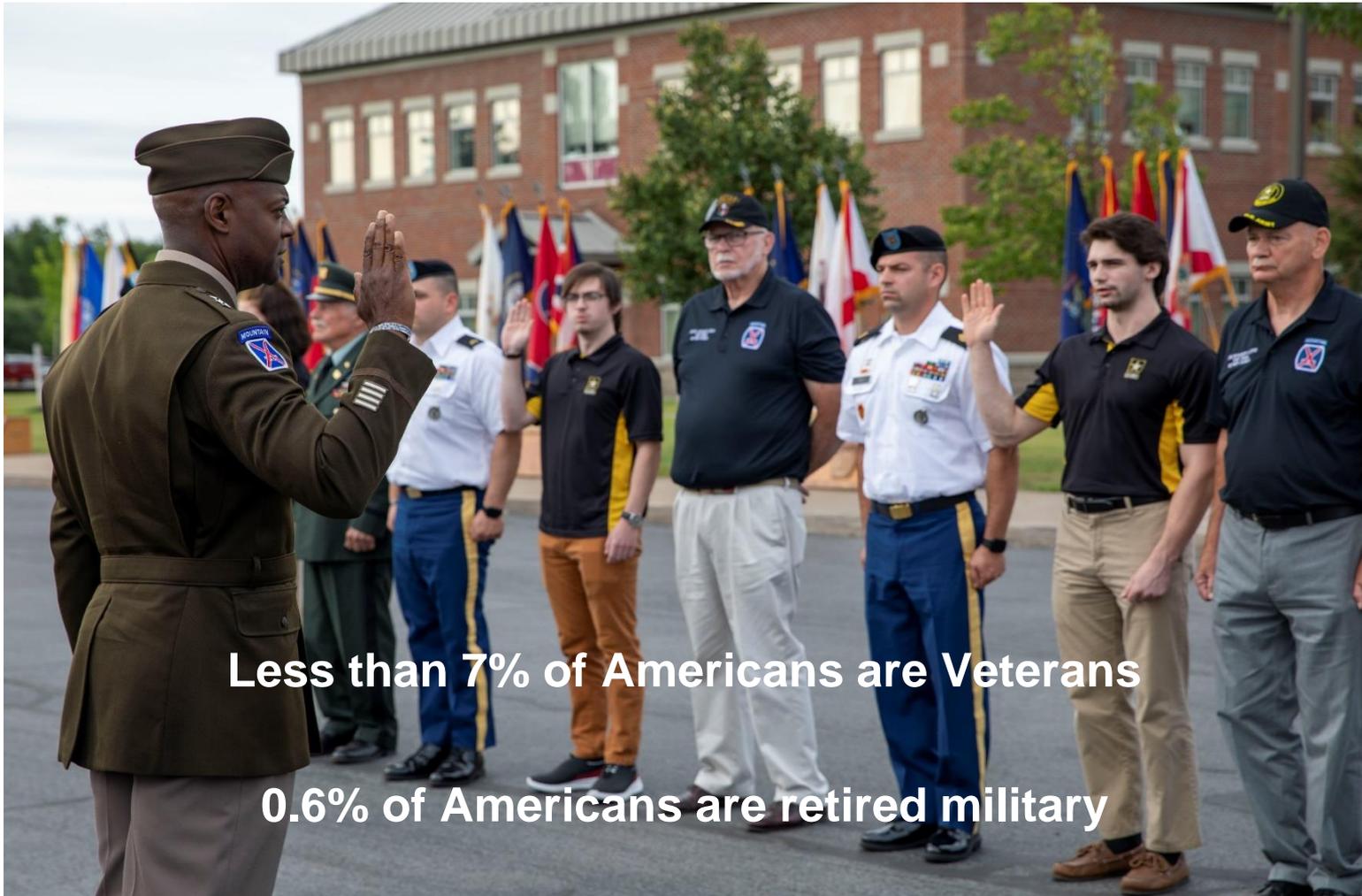
**What you can do for the Army**





U.S. ARMY

# Who will educate Americans about military life if not Veterans?



**Less than 7% of Americans are Veterans**

**0.6% of Americans are retired military**



## ***Still on the Team . . .***

### ***AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program***

**Par. 1–10*b*. “A Retired Soldier is a Soldier who has achieved retired status from any component of the U.S. Army. This includes RC Soldiers who have transferred to the Retired Reserve. The word retired is a part of the Soldier's title and is capitalized. In concert with the Soldier for Life (SFL) Program, a Retired Soldier is not referred to as a retiree.”**



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# How to be a Soldier for Life

## HIRE & INSPIRE

1. Be visible
2. Help **HIRE** Vets
3. **INSPIRE** Americans. Talk about your service. How did the Army help you *BE ALL YOU CAN BE?*
4. **INSPIRE** the next generation



US Army Retired  
Lapel Button



Retired Shoulder  
Sleeve Insignia



Soldier for Life  
Window Sticker



Soldier for Life  
Clothing Line



## Gray Area Retiree Accounts -- and -- Retired Pay Action Notifications

**Survivor Benefit Plan  
(SBP) Open Season  
through 1 January 2024**



[www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement)



CSASoldierForLife



@csaSoldier4Life



US Army Soldier For Life



@csaSoldier4Life



U.S. Army Soldier For Life



[www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/army-echoes](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/army-echoes)  
[www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog)

[www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/change-of-mission](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/change-of-mission)



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