

Retired Soldier Bulletin

September 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

1 – RAD 2022

2 – Survivor Assistance Guide

2 – Fort Bliss Directory of frequently called numbers

3 – WBAMC News

3 – Fort Bliss Commissary

3 – Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss

4 – Army Echoes

4 – Post Retirement Handbook

Soldier For Life Retirement Services Office (SFL-RSO)

Located at 503B Pershing Road, Rooms 123 and 125, the SFL-RSO provides the following retirement services:

- Post and Pre-Retirement Survivor Benefit Plan Counseling
- Assist and advise retirees and annuitants with pay related issues such as:
 - ✓ Change of Address
 - ✓ Change of Direct Deposit
 - ✓ Change of Beneficiary for Arrears of Pay
 - ✓ Federal Income Tax Withholding
 - ✓ State Income Tax Withholding
 - ✓ Assistance to Surviving Spouses
- Information/assistance regarding the Uniformed Services Former Spouse's Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Information/assistance with Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)
- Assistance in obtaining copies of lost documents (i.e., DD Form 214, retirement orders and medical/dental records) and re-issuance of military awards
- Information/referrals on a myriad of entitlements including DEERS/ID Cards, Veterans Affairs (VA), TRICARE (Medical/Dental), Social Security Medicare and other local benefits
- Publish annual Retired Soldier Bulletin for Retired Soldiers and their survivors
- Publish Survivor Assistance Guide (SAG)
- Conduct Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activities
- Provide limited free Notarial Services

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY 2022

Mark your calendars! This year's Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) will take place 14-15 October. Golf Scramble will be at the Underwood Golf Complex on Friday, 14 October beginning at 0800. The ID Card/DEERS and Legal Assistance offices will offer walk-in basis services that Friday as well. And don't forget to stop by and see the newly renovated 1AD Museum on Marshall Road, where the old PX used to be. Flyers with more information will be distributed in September.



Don't miss out on the RAD events scheduled for October 15, 2022, 0800-1400 at the Centennial Club Banquet and Conference Center. We'll have our usual array of participants from different Veteran Services Organizations as well as the mini-Health Fair that William Beaumont Army Medical Center consistently conducts every RAD. Guest speaker will be Colonel Brett H. Venable, Commander, William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

When a Retired Soldier dies the Next of Kin (NoK) should immediately notify this office so that we can brief the NoK of all benefits they may be entitled to and the many agencies that need to be notified in order to make those benefits happen. Of particular importance is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Cleveland (DFAS-CL). This stops the Retired Pay of the deceased Retired Soldier. If it is not stopped, this could result in family members being indebted to the government, causing delays in getting other benefits started – such as the Arrears of Pay and Survivor Benefit Plan.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE GUIDE

The SFL-RSO has developed a Survivor Assistance Guide to inform Retired Soldiers and their Families about the process in preparing well ahead of time for a Retired Soldier's passing. We strongly urge you to read this guidebook carefully. Share it with your Spouse or loved ones and complete the checklist. We are committed to providing the best support possible at this most critical time. Taking the time to prepare this checklist will help them help us. For further Information or to request a copy of this guidebook, please contact the SFL-RSO. They will also be available at the RAD.

FORT BLISS FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office (915) 569-6233/568-5204	Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club (915) 568-2983
Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program (915) 568-3870/568-7996	Army Emergency Relief (AER) (915) 568-4706
Commissary (DECA) (915) 568-6688	Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) (915) 568-5970
ID Card/DEERS (915) 569-6036	Legal Assistance (JAG) (915) 568-7141
Military Lodging (915) 565-7777	FMWR Activities (915) 568-3500
Pharmacy –WBAMC (915) 742-1200 Refill	Freedom Crossing (AAFES) (915) 562-7200
Army Community Service (915) 569-4227	American Red Cross 24 Hour Line (877) 272-7337
Veterans Administration - El Paso (915) 564-6100	TRICARE—West (844) 866-9378
Fort Bliss National Cemetery (915) 564-0201	Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museums (915) 568-5412

WBAMC INTRODUCES AUTOMATION PHARMACY

By Vincent Byrd

WBAMC Ft. Bliss, Texas – William Beaumont Army Medical Center debuted its brand-new Script Center at Fort Bliss, Freedom Crossing (PX), on July 12, 2022.

The Script Center is like a vending machine or a self-service locker. This new technology makes it possible to get medications quickly and safely. It is easy and convenient to sign up. Once registered, beneficiaries can pick up prescriptions at their convenience. Each kiosk or locker system can hold hundreds of pills, except refrigerated medications.

“An advantage of Script Centers is that beneficiaries may pick up their prescription after pharmacies and clinics have closed. In lieu of the kiosk, refill medications including those that are refrigerated or restricted drugs will continue to be picked up at a pharmacy window,” said Maj. Justin Nevins, WBAMC Pharmacy Officer in Charge.

Beneficiaries may receive prescription refills through the Script Center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., five days per week, within PX operating hours. According to the Military Health System, patients’ demand for pharmacy automation was overwhelmingly high. This choice provides patients convenience in all aspects of healthcare.

“After creating an account, the kiosk will need your fingerprint, ID card, or password together with a four-digit PIN to unlock and retrieve your meds. The last step is to submit a prescription number from the most recent month. This will authenticate your account and connect it to the electronic health system,” said Nevins.

Beneficiaries have access to the kiosk’s touch screen, which allows them to set up an account and renew prescriptions for members of their families.

“William Beaumont has advanced our mission to provide the best pharmacy experience across the entire Military Health System. Our patients can now pick up medication refills after hours on weekends and holidays. It also means faster service, more access to pharmaceuticals, less crowded, and, most importantly, shorter wait times for our beneficiaries,” said Col. Brett Venable, El Paso market director and commander of WBAMC.

“A third of our beneficiaries on any given day are just here to pick up refills that they ordered in advance. Even with the deployment of MHS Genesis, our wait times are less than 15 minutes at all pharmacies, despite a significant reduction in wait times. The kiosk allows recipients to save time. You just use your fingerprint and PIN to check in and get your medication. There is no congestion in the lobby and no line,” said Nevins.

FORT BLISS COMMISSARY

The Commissary benefit can save shoppers over 20 cents on the dollar over other retailers’ prices every time they shop. We strive to offer a valued benefit that contributes to family readiness, enhances the quality of life for America’s military and their families, and helps recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country. Visit yours at 1620 Marshall Road, Building 1620, right next to Freedom Crossing. They are open every day from 0830-2000 hours. You can call them at 915-568-6688 or email FortBliss.commissary@deca.mil. You can even order online at <https://shop.commissaries.com>.



FREEDOM CROSSING AT FORT BLISS

Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss is the world’s first open-air shopping center on a military installation that is open to the public. The center creates an extraordinary gathering place for the Fort Bliss and greater El Paso Communities, featuring an expanded Exchange, variety of new restaurants, entertainment, retail and events. See it today at 1611 Haan Road.



ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE ARMY ECHOES?

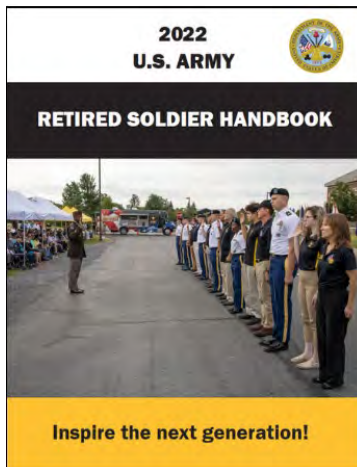
To be sure you have the latest Army Echoes, please visit:

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes> and follow the instructions on how to subscribe, as well as download the latest electronic version on the App Store and Google Play.

GET THE LATEST RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK

The Retired Soldier Handbook 2022 edition is now available to download at: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/post-retirement>. A complete listing of benefits and where to get them or get more information on them is always available – even overseas military installation privileges information can always be found in the latest version of this handbook. Don't delay, get yours today and stay up to-date on the following subjects and more.

- Records and Files / Employment Restrictions
- Military Status / Taxation of Retired Pay
- Medical Care / Retirement Homes
- Retired Pay and Special Compensations
- Social Security / Veterans Affairs Benefits
- Burial and Funeral Honors / Preparing Survivors
- Uniform Services Former Spouses' Protection Act



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Headquarters, Fort Bliss

Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office

ATTN: AMIM-BLH-MSR

503B Pershing Road

Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of public business as required by the law of the Department. Articles published in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Department of the Army, or the Commander, Headquarters, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, Texas. This bulletin is published and made available to eligible Retired personnel, Spouses and Survivors. Inquiries or comments should be directed to the Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office, 503 Pershing Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6816.