The Fort Gordon Retiree News Letter

A Life time of Service, an Everlasting Legacy EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY

Fort Gordon Retiree Ceremony 21 May 2026 Attendees

Lets give a BIG applause to the following Soldiers that attended in the last Retiree Ceremony:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARY C. LEACH
LIEUTENANT COLONEL DERRICK LYLES
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES E. HARRIS
LIEUTENANT COLONEL EBENEZER L. AYETTEY
MAJOR KRYSLYN BELFORD
CAPTAIN LAMONT D. FOXX
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE CHRISTOPHER MILLER

SERGEANT MAJOR KAULAI A. HOLLIS
MASTER SERGEANG ANGELICA BROWN
MASTER SERGEANT EDGAR L. AGOSTO
MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH R. SMITH
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MANOLO CASIANO
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANTHONY W. ALLEN
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SAMUEL W. WARREN

Community Partners

AUSA Association of the United States Army · DAV Disabled American Veterans · U.S. ARMY MWR · ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ACS Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

TRICARE logins transitioning to myAuth in 2026

These days, everyone juggles multiple logins for the many services we access online. The Military Health System is making life a little easier by switching to myAuth—a simpler, more streamlined login authentication application across its online platforms.
You're probably familiar with DS Logon, the legacy system for accessing TRICARE-related platforms and many other government sites. With DS Logon sunsetting by the end of fiscal year 2026, each of the platforms that support your TRICARE benefit will switch from DS Logon to myAuth. milConnect and ID Card Office Online have already made this switch. Read on to learn about what this means for you.
What's changing?
Right now, many platforms that manage your TRICARE benefit still have DS Logon. These include the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to get health records from care at military hospitals and clinics, and many of the contractors that manage your TRICARE benefit, including:

- East Region: Humana Military
- West Region: TriWest Healthcare Alliance
- Overseas Region: International SOS
- TRICARE For Life (in all regions): WPS Government Services
- TRICARE Pharmacy Program: Express Scripts
- TRICARE Dental Program: United Concordia

When the transition to myAuth occurs across these platforms, you'll have multiple options for logging in. With myAuth, users can log in with:

- A Common Access Card
- A username/password, plus a secure multi-factor authentication method
- Okta Verify, an app for personal or government mobile devices that enables secure access without a CAC

How will this change happen?
When you visit a platform that has made the switch, you'll see a new login page and streamlined account creation process. You can also creat a myAuth account at https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/app/login/myauth on your own using your CAC or by following the step-by-step prompts on the login page. If you have an existing DS Logon account, you can also use it to get started. Any way you do it, the myAuth website will guide you through every step.
Important: This change won't happen at the same time for all platforms. Until all these platforms have transitioned to myAuth, you may still need to use DS Logon for certain logins.
What if I need help?
If you're experiencing issues, please visit myAuth Help for additional resources and guidance on creating or updating your account, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. If you still need additional assistance, contact the Defense Manpower Data Center at 800-368-3665. DMDC manages myAuth and can answer questions about the transition or address any related concerns.
Although you'll create a new login for myAuth, remember that neither TRICARE nor its contractors will contact you asking for private information like your date of birth, Social Security number, or your username and password. Read messages carefully and check the source email or web address for legitimacy. If something feels off, trust your instincts. If you think you gave personal or account information to a fraudulent entity, change your password right away and file a report.
In the end, the switch to myAuth means:

- Enhanced security: More options to protect against unauthorized access
- A modernized authentication platform: More ways to log in
- A more user-friendly experience: A simpler interface

The switch to myAuth means a simpler, more secure TRICARE experience online.

Community Activities

When your life changes, it's important to share the news with DFAS

As a retiree, the sooner you alert the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to any life change that might affect your pay, the timelier and more accurate your pay will be. Keeping your account updated includes making sure your mailing address, email address, banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and beneficiary choices are current.

Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen. These life-changing events might include:

Moving
Marriage or Remarriage
Divorce
Birth or adoption of a child
Death of a spouse or child
Direct Deposit account changes
Some changes, especially those regarding Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage, have a one-year time limit, so it is very important that you notify DFAS of life-changing events when they happen. And when you notify us, be sure to include photocopies of supporting documents, such as birth or marriage certificates.

Now it's easier than ever to keep your SBP account up to date. If you are making a change to your SBP coverage because of a life event, you can use our new Form Wizard to assist you in completing the DD Form 2656-6, SBP Election Change Certificate, found at: https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd2656-6.pdf.

We also have a Form Wizard to assist you with the DD Form 2894, found at: https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd2894.pdf to update your Arrears of Pay (AOP) (last paycheck) beneficiary.

When using DD Form 2894 Form Wizard to complete your form, you can take advantage of a fully online experience with electronic signature, and a convenient one-click upload to AskDFAS.

In addition, if you have a question about your account, you can now submit your question via our new AskDFAS online "Ask a Question" tool instead of needing to call our Customer Care Center during business hours. You'll get a response via AskDFAS that you can check when it's convenient for you.

You can also update your mailing address using our convenient AskDFAS online tool.

Keeping your contact information updated is key to staying informed. DFAS occasionally sends out correspondence regarding changes in the law that affect your pay.

DFAS continues to develop helpful tools and information to make managing your account easier. Find out more on our Quick Tools webpage at https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/Quick-Tools-for-Retirees-SBP-Annuitants-Survivors/.

Direct Remittance Roundup: Help us process your SBP payments more efficiently

(Note: This article is for retirees who pay their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) premiums by direct remittance. If your SBP premiums are automatically deducted from your pay, you can disregard this article.)

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is always working to improve processes for our valued retirees. In this article, we're focusing on direct remittance for Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) premiums. If you are a retiree who pays your premiums directly to DFAS, this article has important information for you.

We have recently identified a common issue that can delay the posting of SBP premium payments, especially for retirees who use a bank's online bill pay service. With your help, we can easily fix this and ensure your payments are credited to your account without delay.

The Challenge of Unidentified Payments

When DFAS receives a payment without enough identifying information, it requires extra research to determine which account to credit. This detective work can delay the processing of your payment.

A frequent cause of this issue stems from bank online bill pay services. Many of these services do not send funds electronically but instead print and mail a paper check on your behalf. If the memo or account field in the bill pay setup is not completed correctly, the check arrives but cannot be applied to your account.

How You Can Help

To prevent delays, please take a moment to review your process if you mail a check or use your online banking service to make SBP premium payments. Please ensure your payments follow these requirements:

Include Your DOD ID Number: This is the most crucial piece of information. It can be found on your monthly SBP premium bill. Please add your DOD ID Number to the "account number" or "memo" field.
Discontinue Use of CRS Number: The Centralized Receivables Service (CRS) is no longer used for SBP billing, and your old CRS number is obsolete.
To avoid confusion, please remove it from your payment details.

Include Additional Details: If space allows, consider adding a note such as "SBP Direct Remittance" or "SBP DR" and your last name. This is particularly important if the payment originates from a joint or third-party bank account.
Optional - Add your SSN: Under the Privacy Act, DFAS cannot require you to include your SSN on your payment, but you may do so to improve payment matching.
Better Ways to Pay: Featured Payment Options

To avoid the uncertainty of mailed checks, we strongly encourage you to switch to one of the following secure and convenient electronic payment options:

Pay.gov: This is the most convenient way to make SBP premium payments directly from your bank account or with a debit card. The online form is simple, secure, and provides immediate confirmation. To get started, have your DOD ID handy from your billing statement and navigate to the "DOD Military Retired Pay SBP Premium" online form at https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/1463931154.
Please note: this is a separate government webpage located outside of https://www.DFAS.mil.

Deductions from VA Compensation: If you receive disability compensation from the VA, you may be eligible to have your SBP premiums deducted directly from those payments. This "set it and forget it" option ensures timely payments every month.
To set this up, complete the DD Form 2891 Interim, which is available on our Forms Library at https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/forms/, and submit it to us.

We recommend using AskDFAS at https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas for all document submissions.

Taking these small steps will make a big difference, ensuring your SBP account remains in good standing. For more information, please visit our "Paying for SBP" webpage at https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/sbp/payment/.

Image

What are Social Security-related scams?

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), criminals continue to impersonate SSA and other government agencies in an attempt to obtain personal information or money from individuals.

Scammers might call, email, text, write, or message you on social media claiming to be from the SSA or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). They might use the name of a person who really works there and might send a picture or attachment as "proof."

Social Security employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, the agency calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, are already receiving payments and require an update to their record or have requested a phone call from the agency. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, Social Security will typically mail a letter.

Four Basic Signs of a Scam

Scams come in many varieties, but they all work the same way:

1. Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust.
2. Scammers say there is a problem or a prize.
3. Scammers pressure you to act immediately.
4. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way.

Known Tactics Scammers Use

Scammers frequently change their approach with new tactics and messages to trick people. These are red flags; you can trust that Social Security will never:

- Threaten you with arrest or legal action because you don't agree to pay money immediately.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Claim to need personal information or payment to activate a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or other benefit increase.
- Pressure you to take immediate action, including sharing personal information.
- Ask you to pay with gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or by mailing cash.
- Threaten to seize your bank account.
- Offer to move your money to a "protected" bank account.
- Demand secrecy.
- Direct message you on social media.

Be skeptical and look for red flags. If you receive a suspicious call, text message, email, letter, or message on social media, the caller or sender may not be who they say they are. Scammers have also been known to:

- Use legitimate names of Office of Inspector General or Social Security Administration employees.
- "Spoof" official government phone numbers, or even numbers for local police departments.
- Send official-looking documents by U.S. mail or attachments through email, text, or social media message.

Fraudsters create imposter social media pages and accounts using Social Security-related images and jargon. This helps them appear as if they're associated with or endorsed by the SSA. The imposter pages could be for the agency or Social Security and OIG officials. The user is asked to send their financial information, Social Security number, or other sensitive information. Social Security will never ask for sensitive information through social media as these channels are not secure.

Here are some ways to spot an imposter page:

- Number of followers.
- Incorrect punctuation or spelling.
- Links to pages not on ssa.gov.
- Advertisements for forms or other SSA documents.
- Incorrect social media handle. To view the list of Social Security's official social media channels, we encourage you to visit www.ssa.gov/socialmedia.

It is illegal to reproduce federal employee credentials and federal law enforcement badges. Federal law enforcement will never send photographs of credentials or badges to demand any kind of payment, and neither will federal government employees.

How to Avoid a Scam

Protect yourself, friends, and family — If you receive a suspicious call, text, email, social media message, or letter from someone claiming to be from Social Security:

1. Remain calm. If you receive a communication that causes a strong emotional response, take a deep breath. Talk to someone you trust.
2. Hang up or ignore the message. Do not click on links or attachments.
3. Protect your money. Scammers will insist that you pay with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash. Scammers use these forms of payment because they are hard to trace.
4. Protect your personal information. Be cautious of any contact claiming to be from a government agency or law enforcement telling you about a problem you don't recognize, even if the caller has some of your personal information.
5. Spread the word to protect your community from scammers.
6. Report the scam to the Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov/report.

How to Report

When you report a scam, you are providing powerful data that we use to inform others, identify trends, refine strategies, and take legal action against the criminals behind these scam activities.

If you are unsure about the type of scam, but want to report it, visit USA.gov's Where To Report a Scam, at https://www.usa.gov/where-report-scams. This tool will help you to find the right place to report a scam.

What to Do if You Were Scammed

Recovering from a scam can be a long and difficult process. Here are some reminders:

- Do not blame yourself. Criminal behavior is not your fault.
- Stop contact with the scammer. Do not talk to them
or respond to their messages.
- Notify the three major credit bureaus: Equifax: https://www.equifax.com; Experian: https://www.experian.com; and Transunion: https://www.transunion.com, to add a fraud alert to your credit report.
- Protect your Social Security Number.
- Request a replacement SSN card at: https://www.ssa.gov/number-card/replace-card or new SSN at https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10093.pdf, if necessary.

Recover from a Scam

If you believe you have been scammed, there are resources available to help you recover and protect yourself. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) offers a Scam Recovery Toolkit with guidance and support for victims of scams. Visit the BBB Scam Recovery Toolkit at https://scamsurvivaltoolkit.bbbmarketplacetrust.org/ for more information.

Tips to protect yourself:

- Do not share sensitive information via phone, email, text, or social media.
- Do not transfer or send money to unknown locations.
- Consider designating a "safe word" for your family that is only shared with family members and close contacts.
- Do not provide any personal or sensitive information to an online chatbot.
- Report potential scams to the authorities and the companies involved.