

FORT HUACHUCA RETIREE NEWSLETTER

2024

Fort Huachuca Retirement Services

The Fort Huachuca Retirement Services Office is located at 2385 Hatfield Street, Building 51101.

The Retirement Services Office provides the following services:

Post and Pre-Retirement Survivor Benefit Plan Counseling

Assistance with pay related issues.

Address Changes

Direct Deposit Changes

Beneficiary for Arrears of Pay up-dates

Federal and State Income Tax Withholding

Assistance to Surviving Spouses

Information regarding the Uniformed Services Former Spouse's Protection Act (USFSPA)

Information on Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

Assistance with Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)

Information regarding DEERS/ID Cards, Veterans Affairs (VA), and TRICARE.



Retiree Appreciation Day 2024

We are excited to announce that we will have the annual Retiree Appreciation Day on 25 October 2024 at the MURR recreation center from 10:00 to 14:00. The MURR recreation center is located at 51301 Cushing Street. This event is open to all retirees and family members from all branches of service. We will have the most updated information for the VA, TRICARE, DEERS/ID cards, DFAS, MWR, AFRC, TAP, JAG and much more. We will be offering ID card appointments that day if you need a new ID card. This will be on a first come first serve basis. We hope to see you at the RAD!

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) was created to provide financial support to military Spouses and/or children when a military member dies while on active duty or after retirement. SBP provides eligible beneficiaries with a monthly payment known as an annuity. The recipient of an SBP annuity is referred to as the annuitant. The amount of the SBP benefit is a percentage of retired pay. The percentage depends upon whether the member chooses full or reduced coverage at retirement. SBP provides up to 55 percent of a service member's retired pay to an eligible beneficiary upon the death of the member. After the Service Member passes away, the SBP annuity is paid out monthly to the surviving spouse, or to the child or children of the service member.

Reserve Component Retirement

United States Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers must apply for retirement. To be eligible for retirement at the age of 60, the Soldier must have 20 qualifying years of service and attained the eligibility age. Soldiers may submit retirement packets 6 to 12 months before their 60th birthday and can download a retirement application from the Reserve Component Retirements (RCR) website or request the application via email.

For more information you may call 1-888-276-9472.

Fort Huachuca DEERS/ID Card Office

The Fort Huachuca DEERS/ID card office is located at 2385 Hatfield Street, building 51101. You can schedule an appointment utilizing the online scheduler at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/> or contact the ID card office at 520-533-1608.

Please leave us a voicemail with a good phone number so we can call you back once we are not with our customers. The Fort Huachuca ID Card Facility is open daily from 07:30-11:30 and 12:30-16:00 Monday-Friday. The office is closed on the first Thursday of the month from 07:30 to 09:45 and closed on all Federal Holidays. Start preparing to renew your retired blue ID card (Form 2) with the new USID card. This must be completed by 1 January 2026, as the blue card will no longer be valid after that date.

ARMY ECHOES

The Army Echoes is the official publication for Retired Soldiers and Surviving Spouses. The Echoes is published electronically to anyone with an e-mail address in myPay. You can go to <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement> to download the latest version, read archived copies or get information on how to sign up!

VOTING

Your vote counts!

This year's presidential election will be held on Tuesday the 5th of November. Be sure to cast your ballot.



Understanding MEDICARE and TRICARE for Life

TRICARE for Life (TFL) is available to TRICARE retirees, family members and beneficiaries, regardless of age or where you live. If you have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, you are eligible for TFL on the first date you have both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital care, hospice care, inpatient skilled nursing facility care, and some home health care.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines your entitlement to Medicare Part A based on your work history or your spouse's (this includes divorced or deceased spouses) work history.

Medicare Part B covers provider services, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventive services. Medicare Part B has a monthly premium, which may change yearly and varies based on income.

MEDICARE Enrollment and TRICARE for Life

The window for enrollment for MEDICARE spans seven months (3 months prior to birth month, birth month at age 65, and 3 months following). If you do not enroll at age 65, there is a penalty, and you lose TRICARE coverage until you eventually enroll in MEDICARE. Although the MEDICARE window spans several months, BE ADVISED, if you are approaching age 65, check the expiration date of your ID card; it should expire on the last day of the month preceding your birth month. At that time your medical benefits under regular TRICARE will also expire.

Enrollment in MEDICARE PART A and B, and possession of your MEDICARE card is required for update in DEERS and issuance of a new ID card which enrolls you in TRICARE FOR LIFE. It is best to enroll in MEDICARE at the earliest possible date to ensure seamless transition of medical benefits.

To enroll in MEDICARE parts A and B, contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213 (online at www.ssa.gov) or MEDICARE at 800-633-4227 (online at www.medicare.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call the Social Security TTY number (800) 325-0778. You can also visit your local Social Security office. If you apply online, once approved, you can print your own MEDICARE card. If you are enrolled in MEDICARE when you are first eligible, but do not yet receive Social Security, MEDICARE will bill you for your MEDICARE Part B premiums.

DEFENCE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING (DFAS)

As a retiree, it is important to keep your records updated.

An updated DFAS account refers to mailing and email addresses as well as banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and beneficiary choices.

Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen.

DFAS occasionally sends out correspondence regarding changes in the law that affect your pay. If your mailing address is not correct and you do not have a myPay account, DFAS has no way of notifying you about changes. DFAS is also communicating more via email to provide convenient customer service, so you will be better informed if you have a current email in your myPay account.

The easiest way to keep your account updated is to use myPay. You can use myPay to change your mailing address, your email address, your direct deposit information, some allotments, and your tax withholding status. You can also use myPay to verify payment information, including allotment amounts, or tax withholding, or check your SBP coverage on your Retiree Account Statement.

HISTORY

Fort Huachuca's key role in national defense began in 1877 when the 6th Cavalry set up an outpost to secure the San Pedro and Santa Cruz Valleys from Apache raiders. Over its long history, the Fort has been home to Horse Soldiers, Foot Soldiers, "Buffalo Soldiers" and World War 2 Infantrymen. Engineers trained here during the Korean War. Today, the Fort is an important center for technical development and Soldier training, home to the Army Electronic Proving Ground (1954), Headquarters, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Command (1967), the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School (1971) and the world's largest unmanned aerial systems training center, (2011). The adobe buildings of the "Old Post" represent the best-preserved example of a 19th century military cantonment area in the Southwest. It became a National Historic Landmark during the Fort's centennial year, 1977.



Fort Huachuca Frequently Called Numbers

Retirement Services Officer (520) 533-1120	Casualty Assistance (520) 533-2485
Assistant Retirement Services Officer (520) 533-1383	Legal Assistance (JAG) (520) 533-2009
Commissary (DECA) (520) 533-5540	TRICARE—West (844) 866-9378
ID Card/DEERS (520) 533-1608	Fort Huachuca Exchange (AAFES) (520) 458-7830
Military Lodging (520) 266-3800	FMWR Activities (520) 538-0836
Pharmacy –RWBAHC (520) 533-2520	Soldier For Life Readiness Center (520) 533-2330
Veterans Administration (520) 792-1450	American Red Cross 24 Hour Line (877) 272-7337

*Thank You for
Your Service and Sacrifice*