



IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREE BULLETIN



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IMCOM-Europe publishes the Retiree Bulletin twice a year in accordance with AR 600-8-7. The Retiree Bulletin is available electronically on the IMCOM-Europe website at http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe_life/retiree/index.html. The purpose of the Bulletin is to keep retired Soldiers, their spouses, and families informed of their rights and privileges, to update them on developments in the Army, and to inspire goodwill and a desire to support the Army in the civilian community. You may send inquiries or comments about the IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletin to the editor of the Retiree Bulletin, IMCOM-Europe (IMEU-GB-RSO), Unit 23103, APO AE 09136-3103. You may also get in touch by e-mail: usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil or by calling military 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530.

You may direct all other questions to the retirement services office at your local United States Army garrison (see pg 6).

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Dear Retirees, Family Members, and Annuitants:

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all at one of the retiree events during 2014. Remember, the quicker you bring up issues and problems, the quicker we can work on them and solve them when possible.



MIKE MALONE
IMCOM-Europe RSO

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR IMCOM- EUROPE RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE

The telephone number for the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office located on Sembach Kaserne is military 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530.

NUMBERS AND SERVICE HOURS FOR THE FEDERAL BENEFITS UNIT, FRANKFURT

The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU), Frankfurt, numbers and hours are as follows for Americans residing in **Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein:**

Monday to Friday

0800 to 1100

Telephone: 0049-(0)69-90-555-1100

Fax: 0049-(0)69-749352

E-mail address: fbu.frankfurt@ssa.gov

The office is closed on—

- German and American holidays.
- The last Thursday of every month.

FBU **will not assist** retirees and annuitants **with military retired pay** issues. Please refer to the last page of this bulletin to find a retirement services office to assist you with issues involving DFAS-Cleveland. You may also contact DFAS-Cleveland directly by calling or writing them. Their mailing information and telephone numbers are provided on page 3.

SCHEDULED USAG RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS (RADs) IN MAY AND OCTOBER 2014

Please note that event dates are subject to change based on military priorities. Always check with the local retirement services office before departing for an event. In 2013, a couple of the events did not take place due to the Government shutdown.

The following RADs are scheduled for 2014:

USAG Bavaria (formerly USAG Grafenwöhr): Friday, **9 May 2014**, in building 244,

main post, from 0900 to 1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration). Medical services will include flu shots and other vaccinations, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmacy services. Dental services will provide retirees with oral hygiene information and screening appointments. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the legal office, local associations, AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. Representatives of the following outside agencies will attend if they have funding: DFAS-Cleveland (retired pay records audit and assistance) and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social Security and VA information). The location may change due to military missions.

USAG Ansbach-Katterbach: Friday, **16 May 2014**, at a location to be determined. Medical services will include shots, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmacy information. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the National Archives and Records Administration, the legal office, local associations, AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. Representatives of the following outside agency will attend: DFAS-Cleveland (retired pay records audit and assistance). The date changed from 24 October 2013 due to the Government shutdown.

USAG Benelux: The RAD is scheduled for Saturday, **4 October 2014**, in the Chapel Annex at SHAPE, from 0900 to 1200 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1100). The following agencies will be represented: garrison support agencies and DFAS-Cleveland (retired pay records audit and assistance). The location may change due to military missions.

Kaiserslautern/Ramstein: The USAG Rheinland-Pfalz/Ramstein AFB will hold a joint RAD on Wednesday, **15 October 2014**, at the Ramstein Officers Club from 0900 to 1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1300). DFAS-Cleveland (retired pay records audit and assistance) and community support agencies will be represented.

USAG Vicenza: USAG Vicenza will host a Retiree Health Day on Friday, **17 October 2014**, from 0900 to 1300 for all retirees and their family members at the Deployment Support Center (bldg 300A). Anticipated services include audiology, blood-pressure screening, information on diabetes control, family practice, immunizations, infection control, nutrition care, occupational therapy, orthopedics, optometry, pharmacy, TRICARE, Wellness Center, and dental care. In addition, a representative from DFAS-Cleveland will be present to assist retirees with pay issues.

USAG Stuttgart: Thursday, **23 October 2014**, at Patch Barracks, Swabian Special Events Center (subject to change), from 0800 to 1300. Medical services will include flu shots and other vaccinations, diet counseling, eye exams, medical screening, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmacy information. Ophthalmology services may be offered (depending on personnel availability). Dental services will provide retirees only with oral hygiene information and exams. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the legal office. Local associations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), United Services Organization (USO), United Services Automobile Association (USAA), AAFES, and the Service Credit Union will be represented. Representatives of the following outside agencies will attend if they have funding: DFAS-Cleveland (retired pay records audit and assistance) and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social

Security and VA information). The location may change due to military missions.

USAG Wiesbaden: The Army in Europe RAD hosted by the USAG Wiesbaden will be on Saturday, **25 October 2014**, at the Community Activities Center (bldg 1011) from 0900 to 1300. Registration begins at 0800 and closes at 1200. The event includes a Speakers Program with the CG, USAREUR, and the Co-Chairman of the Chief of Staff of the Army Retiree Council from 0900 to 1000. Representatives from garrison services such as the ID-card office and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the Installation Access Control System, and legal assistance will be present. Representatives from the United States Army Europe Regional Medical Command and the Europe Regional Dental Command will also be available during the day to answer questions and provide services. Representatives from the FBU, Frankfurt, will assist with Social Security and VA questions.

RETIREE CORRESPONDENCE MAILING ADDRESS

The retiree correspondence mailing address that you maintain at Retired Pay, DFAS-Cleveland, is the address DOD uses as your official mailing address for all non-medical retiree correspondence (for example, changes in the law affecting retirees and their families). DOD uses the address in DEERS for all medical correspondence (for example, TRICARE, MEDICARE Part B information). Retirees need to keep this in mind, even if they receive retiree account statements and other information by e-mail.

Several retirees still have an APO address where the **APO has closed** and have not provided a forwarding address. When a retiree has an obsolete APO address, senders have no way of knowing whether the retiree is still in Germany or has moved back to the United States. To ensure your address is correct, check the address information entered in MyPay.

If you have problems updating MyPay or any other issues, you may contact the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office at military 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530 for assistance.

MAILING DRUGS TO APO ADDRESSES

Mailing medicine and pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and nutritional supplements directly to individuals is prohibited. **This continues to be an issue.**

DFAS-CLEVELAND MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The DFAS-Cleveland centralized mail-handling operation addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 216-522-5955
Fax: 1-800-469-6559

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 216-522-5955
Fax: 1-800-982-8459

For Germany only (toll-free): 0800-5891634 (dial as shown). This number cannot be reached from a military telephone.

Ensure the last four digits of your Social Security number and your signature are on all pages sent by fax. You can change your address online through the MyPay website at <http://www.dfas.mil>.

TURNING 65 AND REGISTERING FOR MEDICARE PART B

Approximately 180 to 120 days before you reach the age of 65, TRICARE will send a letter to the address you maintain in TRICARE/DEERS. It will inform you that you must enroll in MEDICARE Part A (at no cost) and Part B (\$110.00 per month) and pay the monthly premiums for Part B to continue TRICARE coverage (TRICARE for Life).

The letter will inform you that you must sign up for MEDICARE Part B no later than 2 months before you turn 65 to remain TRICARE-eligible and avoid a break in your coverage.

U.S. citizens living abroad are required to file their applications for U.S. Social Security benefits (including MEDICARE) through the U.S. embassy or consulate in their country, unless otherwise directed by the embassy or consulate. Filing online is currently not possible (only available Stateside).

After enrolling in MEDICARE Parts A and B, you **need to go to the local ID-card office and have your enrollment entered in DEERS**. You will need to bring the MEDICARE card that you received from MEDICARE as supporting documentation.

If you fail to enroll with MEDICARE Part B you will not be covered by TRICARE after you reach the age of 65. Failure to pay MEDICARE Part B premiums in a timely manner will cause a break in your TRICARE for Life coverage. Medical facilities will not see you or provide any services for you.

NOTE: TRICARE for Life has the same coverage as TRICARE Standard. Everyone in Europe is under TRICARE Standard cost coverage for services.

TRICARE DOES NOT COVER LONG-TERM HEALTHCARE

TRICARE does not provide a long-term healthcare benefit. You may need to look at

purchasing long-term care insurance coverage for assistance with long-term care costs. TRICARE, like MEDICARE, is designed to cover medical care for illnesses and injuries such as cancer, a broken arm, or a stroke. It will not pay for long-term assistance with activities of daily living, such as dressing, eating, or using the bathroom. For information on long-term care coverage, contact commercial companies that provide long-term care benefits. The Office of Personnel Management provides long-term care coverage through the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). Many TRICARE beneficiaries may be eligible to participate in FLTCIP. For more information, call 001-800-582-3337.

TRICARE CLAIMS MUST BE FILED WITHIN 1 YEAR

The TRICARE Claims Center requests all bills and claims be submitted no later than 12 months after the first day you receive care on an outpatient basis. TRICARE needs to receive claims for inpatient services no later than 12 months after the day you leave the hospital. Claims are filed by submitting a completed DD Form 2642 (TRICARE DOD/Champus Claim, Patient's Request for Medical Payment). Ensure you include proof of payment with the claim.

Claims received later than 1 year after the date that service was provided may not be honored. If, however, the bill is dated later than 1 year after the date the service was provided, TRICARE will honor the claim.

Remember, TRICARE may not cover all host-nation services offered. You should always check with your local TRICARE office for guidance on services offered versus services covered before accepting them.

Drugs are a big issue. Ensure prescriptions indicate the **American name of each drug**.

WHO IS YOUR ARREARS BENEFICIARY?

Who did you designate as your arrears beneficiary for your last month of retirement pay? Since we have no way of knowing how long we will live, we need to ensure that the information DFAS-Cleveland has on file about our arrears beneficiary remains current.

Once a retiree dies, DFAS-Cleveland will recoup the last check either from the bank or the spouse. DFAS-Cleveland will audit and then close the retiree's retired-pay account. If the retiree did not identify a beneficiary for the last retirement pay, DFAS-Cleveland will use the last election on file. Furthermore, DFAS-Cleveland cannot start the annuitant payments of the Survivor Benefit Plan until the retiree's retired-pay account is closed. Therefore, contact your local retirement services office about completing DD Form 2894 (Designation of Beneficiary Information). You can also go to MyPay and input the information. You may input an APO address, but remember to change it when you move. Local civilian addresses can normally not be input in MyPay because not all towns are listed on the dropdown list and there is no blank line to enter the name of a town. Do not select a town near you from the dropdown list as your town. Instead, complete and submit DD Form 2894. When doing so, indicate the postal code for your town.

PROBLEMS WITH APO ADDRESSES

Many retirees maintain an APO mailing address for both DFAS-Cleveland and DOD civilian pay. That in itself is not a problem. The problem is the way the address is written. IMCOM-Europe Postal Operations has stated that the address should not have anything other than the following items in the address: CMR, box number, and APO number. There should not be a city, location, or other identifying features indicated.

Here is a sample of a correct APO address:

CMR 467 BOX 0001
APO AE 09096-0001

Here is a sample of an incorrect APO address:

Wiesbaden Army Post Office
USAREUR IG Office
CMR 467 BOX 0001
APO AE 09096-0001
Wiesbaden, Germany

Adding the additional items could cause a delay in delivering mail. In addition, if the address includes a German city or location, it could be subject to German customs control.

The postal code including the “plus four” should be used when addressing an APO box number. If you do not know your plus four, ask your local community mail service center for assistance.

RECEIVING THE RETIREE BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

The IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletin is only forwarded by e-mail. IMCOM-Europe stopped printing and mailing paper copies in June 2013 due to budget constraints.

If you wish to receive the Retiree Bulletin by e-mail, you can ask to be included in the electronic distribution list by logging onto <https://aepubs.army.mil/>. Click on *Retiree*, then click on the *Add New* button, enter the

information requested in the pop-up window, and click on *Submit*. This is a one-time registration. Once you subscribe, you will receive all future Retiree Bulletins by e-mail. If you change your e-mail address, you must register again.

LOOKING FOR AN RSO?

If you are looking for a retirement services office and live outside Belgium, Germany, Italy, or the Netherlands, contact the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office at military 314-544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530, or consult the list on page 6.

RETIREEINFO LIST SERVER

The RetireeInfo List Server is a means of automatically receiving e-mail with information of interest to retirees and their families and survivors living in Europe.

On Monday, 25 November 2013, a posting was made to the RetireeInfo List Server providing an AKO webmail update for retirees and their families.

If you did not receive this posting but would like to receive future postings, you can subscribe to the RetireeInfo List Server by clicking on the *Subscribe Here* link at the lower right-hand corner of the USAREUR G1 webpage at www.eur.army.mil/g1/ and following the instructions.

Should you later decide you no longer want to receive postings, instructions for unsubscribing are provided at the bottom of each posting.

IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICES

If you are calling from outside Germany, use the country code 0049.

Do not dial the (0) prefix. (For example, if dialing a number in Frankfurt, dial 0049-69-xxxx.)

NOTE: RSOs are open during normal duty hours only.

To report a retiree's death, call the IMCOM-Europe Casualty Assistance Center at 0049-(0)6302-675883 (available 24 hours a day/7 days a week).

GERMANY

IMCOM-EUROPE (Sembach)

IMCOM-Europe RSO
(IMEU-HG-RSO)
Unit 23103, APO AE 09136-3103
Tel: 0049-(0)611-143-1530
e-mail: usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach.imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil

Ansbach

USAG Ansbach
Unit 28614
APO AE 09177-8614
Tel: 0049-(0)981-183-3301
e-mail: usarmy.ansbach.imcom-europe.list.rso@mail.mil

Bavaria

USAG Bavaria
Unit 28130
APO AE 09114-8130
Tel: 0049-(0)9641-83-8709
e-mail: usarmy.grafenwoehr.imcom.list.rsografenwoehr@mail.mil

Stuttgart

USAG Stuttgart
Unit 30401
APO AE 09107-0401
Tel: 0049-(0)7031-15-2010
e-mail: usarmy.stuttgart.imcom-europe.list.retired-services@mail.mil

Bamberg (closes Sep 2014)

USAG Bamberg
Unit 27535
APO AE 09139-7535
Tel: 0049-(0)951-300-7514
e-mail: usarmy.bamberg.usareur.list.rso-bamberg@mail.mil

Rheinland-Pfalz

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz
Unit 23152
APO AE 09227-3152
Tel: 0049-(0)631-411-8405
usarmy.kaiserslautern.imcom-europe.list.usag-k-ret-serv@mail.mil

Wiesbaden

USAG Wiesbaden
Unit 29623
APO AE 09096-9623
Tel: 0049-(0)611-705-7668
e-mail: usarmy.wiesbaden.imcom-europe.mbx.retirement-services-office@mail.mil

Baumholder

USAG Baumholder
Unit 23746
APO AE 09034-3746
Tel: 0049-(0)6783-6-7255
e-mail: usarmy.baumholder.imcom-europe.list.retirement-service@mail.mil

Schweinfurt (closes Sep 2014)

USAG Schweinfurt
CMR 457
APO AE 09033
Tel: 0049-(0)9721-96-8919
e-mail: usarmy.schweinfurt.imcom-europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

BELGIUM

USAG Benelux
US NATO/SHAPE SUPT GP
CMR 451, APO AE 09708
Tel: 0032-65-44-6293
e-mail: usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

NETHERLANDS

USAG Schinnen
Unit 21602
APO AE 09703-1602
Tel: 0032-65-44-6293
e-mail: usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

ITALY/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

USAG Vicenza
Unit 31401
APO AE 09630-1401
Tel: 0039-0444-71-7262
e-mail: usarmy.vicenza.imcom-europe.mbx.retirement-services@mail.mil