

IMCOM-Europe publishes the Retiree Bulletin twice a year in accordance with AR 600-8-7. The Retiree Bulletin is available at [http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe\\_life/retiree/index.html](http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe_life/retiree/index.html) and is also distributed by e-mail to retirees who subscribed for receiving the Retiree Bulletin by e-mail. The purpose of the Retiree Bulletin is to keep retirees, their spouses, and Family members 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 to IMCOM-Europe (IMEU-GB-RSO), Unit 23103, APO AE 09136-3103. You may also get in touch by calling military 544-1530, civilian 0049-611-143-544-1530, or e-mail: [usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil).

Direct all other questions to the retirement services office at your local United States Army garrison ([see page 8](#)).

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Dear Retirees, Family Members, and Annuitants:

Grafenwöhr and Ansbach conducted Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) in May, and both events provided the retired population with great services and information. Other garrisons will conduct their RAD in October. A couple of events have been rescheduled from previously announced dates due to ongoing military missions. We plan the events approximately 10 to 12 months out and sometimes military missions require the event date to be changed. Before heading out to a RAD, please contact the garrison RSO to confirm the date of the event. Hope to see you at the RAD!



MIKE MALONE  
IMCOM-Europe RSO



# IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREE BULLETIN



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This bulletin expires 1 year from date of publication.

## CONTENTS

Soldier for Life .....	2
USAG Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) in 2014 .....	2
Transformation of the United States Army Europe .....	3
Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt Consulate.....	4
Retiree Correspondence Mailing Address .....	4
Turning 65 and filing for MEDICARE Part B .....	5
Mailing Drugs to an APO Address .....	5
DFAS-Cleveland Mailing Address and Telephone Numbers .....	5
TRICARE Does Not Cover Long-Term Healthcare.....	6
TRICARE Claims Must be Filed within 1 Year.....	6
RetireeInfo List Server.....	6
Who is Your Arrears Beneficiary?.....	6
Correct Format of an APO Address.....	6
Retiree Bulletin by E-mail .....	7
IMCOM-Europe RSO Telephone Number .....	7
Looking for an RSO? .....	7
IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Offices .....	8

## Soldier for Life

Lieutenant General Bromberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, United States Army, said the following about the new website [www.soldierforlife.army.mil](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil):

"I encourage you to visit the new Army website for Soldiers, retired Soldiers, veterans, Gold Star Families, and military families at [www.soldierforlife.army.mil](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil). This site provides a virtual connection to the Army Team as we modernize the force in response to shifting operational priorities and budgetary considerations.

As you know, the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) website is no longer available for use by our retired Army community members and auto-forwarding of AKO e-mail for retirees ends 31 December 2014. This transition from AKO is a necessary part of modernizing the Army network and meeting cyber-security standards. However, the Army continues to provide access to information and resources pertaining to health and retirement services, employment and education. Effective immediately, this information is accessible via [www.soldierforlife.army.mil](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil).

Because e-mail services are not offered through [www.soldierforlife.army.mil](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil), we have been encouraging all retired Soldiers and Family members since fall 2013 to sign up for one of the many free commercial e-mail and to notify Family, friends, professional contacts, and businesses about the new e-mail address. Retired Soldiers can still set their AKO e-mail accounts to auto-forward to a commercial account up until 31 December 2014.

During phase two of the transition to [www.soldierforlife.army.mil](http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil), the website will feature social media applications in addition to Twitter and Google+ that provide a three-way communication: Army to community members, community members to Army, and community member to community member.

It is critical that the Army remain virtually connected to all Soldiers (active duty, Army

Reserve, National Guard), retired Soldiers, and Family members. We honor their Service and sacrifices by continuing to provide easy access to information and resources.

For information about the transition from AKO to the Soldier For Life website, here is an Army press release: <http://1.usa.gov/1hjThXT>.

I ask you to inform key members in your commands and your communities of these changes. We want all Soldiers (recruits, currently serving, or retired) to know they have a permanent link to the Army Family. Once a Soldier, always a Soldier . . . A Soldier for Life!"

### USAG Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) in 2014

Please note that event dates are subject to change based on military priorities. Always check with your local RSO before departing for an event. This year, a couple of the dates did change due to military missions.

**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 to audit retired pay records and provide assistance. The location may change due to military missions.

**USAG Stuttgart (changed date):** Thursday, **9 October 2014**, at Patch Barracks, Swabian Special Events Center 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 garrison chaplain's office; customs; Red Cross; Army Community Services; the ID-card office; the passport office; the Installation Access

Control System; the National Archives and Records Administration; the legal office; local associations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), United Services Automobile Association (USAA), Organization (USO), AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. Representatives of the following outside agencies will attend: DFAS-Cleveland to audit retired pay records and provide assistance and the Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt Consulate (for Social Security and VA information), if they have funding. The location may change due to military missions.

**USAG Rheinland-Pfalz:** USAG Rheinland-Pfalz and Ramstein Air Force Base will hold a joint service RAD on Thursday, **15 October 2014** at the Ramstein Officers Club from 0900 to 1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1300). Representatives from DFAS-Cleveland and community support agencies will be present.

**USAG Vicenza:** USAG Vicenza will host a Retiree Health Day on **Friday 17 October, 2014** from 0900-1300 for all retirees and their Family members at the United States Army Health Center Vicenza, Italy. The anticipated services are: audiology; blood-pressure screening; diabetes information; 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. Currently, the event is scheduled to be held in the Deployment Support Center in Building 300A.

**USAG Wiesbaden: The Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day** will be hosted by USAG Wiesbaden on **Saturday, 25 October 2014** at Building 1011, Community Activities Center or Building 1043, Tony Bass Fitness Center/Theater from 0900 to 1300. The location of the event has not been confirmed. Registration begins at 0800 and closes at 1200. The event includes a Speakers Program from 0900 to 1000 with the Commanding General, United States Army Europe, and the

Co-Chairman of the Chief of Staff of the Army Retiree Council, Lieutenant General Lovelace (ret). Colonel Mentell (ret), President of the Army in Europe Retiree Council, will also speak. Representatives from garrison services such as the ID-card office, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the Installation Access Control System, legal assistance, United States Army Europe Regional Medical Command, and United States Army Europe Regional Dental Command will be available during the day to answer questions and provide services. Also, a representative from the Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt Consulate, will assist with questions related to Social Security and Veterans Administration.

USAG Ansbach and USAG Grafenwöhr conducted their RADs in May this year with more than 100 retirees and Family members attending each event. Both USAGs plan on holding their next RAD in 2015.

### **Transformation of the United States Army Europe**

The USAREUR Public Affairs Office issued the following statement about transformation:

“U.S. Army Europe remains a key element of national defense. With two brigade combat teams, a combat aviation brigade and supporting units, USAREUR is a highly trained force of professional Soldiers ready to execute the gamut of U.S. national missions, from evacuation of noncombatants to contingencies such as Libya and full-scale operations as in Afghanistan and Iran. Supporting seven combatant commanders and NATO, USAREUR provides strategic reach and supporting depth into three continents, capitalizing on the superb existing military infrastructure in Europe.

No longer a heavy force postured to protect Central Europe, USAREUR has deployed about 30 percent of its force each year for the past decade to support a wide array of contingency and combat operations. USAREUR has reduced from more than 213,000 Soldiers in 1989 to a current force of about 29,000 fo-

cused on the 51 countries in the United States European Command's area of responsibility, including Russia, Turkey, Israel, and the Caucasus. We are a streamlined three-star headquarters commanding the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Vicenza, Italy, with two battalions in Grafenwöhr, Germany; the 2d Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany; and the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Ansbach, Germany. In addition, our small capable logistics, medical, signal, intelligence, engineer, and other units provide strategic depth and significant support to USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, USSOCOM, USCENTCOM, USCYBERCOM, USSTRATCOM, and USTRANSCOM.

As part of the transformation, the command has closed nearly 740 sites across Europe over the past 25 years, from isolated radio towers to large troop-support compounds and housing areas. By 2015, USAREUR will complete the return of four more major garrisons (Heidelberg, Mannheim, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt) resulting in \$300 million in annual savings, all without BRAC funds. USAREUR will consolidate in Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern, Baumholder, Ansbach, and Grafenwöhr, Germany; Vicenza, Italy; and at our NATO support sites in the Benelux. This smaller footprint will result in major savings with fewer gates to guard, more efficient services, lower operating costs, and decreased support personnel, while providing the increased security and mission control that comes with fewer, more compact facilities.

Perhaps the most important change in recent years is USAREUR's mission in developing the military skills of allied and partner nations. Based on their training at USAREUR's Joint Multinational Training Command at Grafenwöhr, countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq that could not contribute to international missions in the past have developed their skills to become major players in such missions. Ninety percent of our coalition partners in these missions come from European nations, with some 40,000 personnel actively shouldering a common burden in our global defense, a fact

directly attributable to USAREUR's work building relationships and multinational partners.

Forward-stationing in Europe remains a visible symbol of the U.S. commitment to European security and the NATO Alliance, enabling the U.S. to maintain a strong leadership role in NATO and provide continued assurance to our Allies and partners."

### **Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt Consulate**

The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) Frankfurt Consulate, administers Federal benefits programs for Americans residing in **Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein** and may be contacted as follows:

#### **Monday to Friday**

0800 to 1100

Telephone: 0049-69-90-555-1100

Fax: 0049-69-749352

E-mail address: [fbu.frankfurt@ssa.gov](mailto:fbu.frankfurt@ssa.gov)

#### **The office is closed on—**

- German and American Holidays.
- the last Thursday of the month.

**FBU does not assist retirees and annuitants with military retired pay issues.** Please refer to the last page of this bulletin to find an RSO to assist you with issues involving DFAS-Cleveland. You may also contact DFAS-Cleveland directly (contact information is on page 5).

### **Retiree Correspondence Mailing Address**

Please make sure you provide your current mailing address to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). While you receive mail from DFAS-Cleveland regarding retiree issues, DOD uses the mailing address in DEERS to send mail related to medical care, that is, information on TRICARE and MEDICARE Part B. Since applying for MEDICARE Part B is time-sensitive, it is essential for you to make sure that your mailing address in DEERS is correct.

## Turning 65 and Filing for MEDICARE Part B

Approximately 180-120 days before you turn 65 years, TRICARE Management Activity will forward a letter to the address you maintain in DEERS. The letter will inform you that you must enroll in Medicare Part A (no cost) and Part B (@\$110.00 per month) and pay the monthly premiums for part B to continue TRICARE coverage (TRICARE for Life). (Failure to make MEDICARE Part B premiums in a timely manner will cause a break in your TRICARE for Life coverage.) The letter will also 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.

Retirees living abroad and wanting to enroll in MEDICARE Part B before their Social Security retirement date 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. An online application as for retirees residing in the U.S. is currently not available.

After enrolling in MEDICARE Part A and B, you will have to take your MEDICARE card to your local ID-card office. Your enrollment will be entered into the DEERS system and you will receive a new ID-card to indicate the extended medical coverage. In most cases, the Social Security Administration will inform DEERS of your enrollment, but you still need a new ID-card showing the coverage.

If you do not enroll for MEDICARE Part B, you will have no TRICARE for Life coverage after you turn 65, and U.S. Government medical facilities will not attend to you or provide any services for you.

**NOTE: TRICARE for Life has the same coverage as TRICARE Standard.**

## Mailing Drugs to an APO Address

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

If you have questions, please contact your local community mail service center for guidance.

## 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 network telephone.**

When faxing correspondence to DFAS, please make sure to sign and include the last four digits of your Social Security number on all pages. You can change your mailing address online through the MyPay website at <http://www.dfas.mil>.

## **TRICARE Does Not Cover Long-Term Care**

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. You may need to look at purchasing long-term care insurance to cover long-term care costs. For information on long-term care coverage, contact commercial companies that provide long-term care benefits. The Office of Personnel Management also provides long-term care coverage through the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). Many TRICARE beneficiaries may be eligible to participate in the FLTCIP. For more information, call 001-800-582-3337.

### **TRICARE Claim 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 wants to receive claims for inpatient services no later than 12 months after the day you leave the hospital. To file a claim, complete DD Form 2642 (TRICARE DOD/Champus Claim, Patient's Request for Medical Payment), include a proof of payment, and mail the claim to TRICARE. When claiming the cost for a prescribed medication, please make sure the prescription indicates the generic name of the drug.

If you fail to submit your claim within 1 year after the date of service, the claim may not be honored. If, however, the service provider issues a bill with a date later than 1 year after the service was provided, TRICARE will honor the claim.

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

## **RetireeInfo List Server**

Retirees and annuitants who want to receive the latest news for Army retirees in Europe, may subscribe to the RetireeInfo List Server. The RetireeInfo List Server is available from the USAREUR G1 website at [www.eur.army.mil/g1/](http://www.eur.army.mil/g1/). Click on the "Subscribe Here" link at the lower right-hand corner on the website and follow the instructions.

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

### **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 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 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 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 RSO about completing DD Form 2894 (Designation of Beneficiary Information). You can also visit [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) and enter the information online. When entering the beneficiary's address, preferably use an APO address as the system does not allow you to enter a city or select a city from a dropdown listing for a civilian address. If you do enter a civilian address, make sure to enter the postal code of the city.

### **Correct Format of an APO Address**

Please make sure you provide your APO address in the correct format when providing it

to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and DFAS-Cleveland. An APO address should not have anything other than the CMR, box number, and APO number. There should not be a city, location, or other identifying feature in the address. By adding additional items, the delivery of your mail may be delayed. In addition, if the address includes a German city or location, the mail may be subject to German customs control.

Use the 9-digit ZIP code when using an APO box number. If you do not know your complete ZIP code, ask your local community mail service center for assistance.

Here is an example of a correct APO address:

CMR 467, Box 0001  
APO AE 09096-0001

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### **Retiree Bulletin by E-Mail**

The IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletin is distributed only by e-mail. If you did not receive a copy by e-mail, please check with your local Retiree Council or RSO.

### **IMCOM-Europe RSO Telephone Number**

The telephone number for the IMCOM-Europe RSO located on Sembach Kaserne is military 544-1530 or civilian 0049-611-143-544-1530. The telephone number in the Jan-May 2014 Army Echoes issue is incorrect.

### **Looking for an RSO?**

If you live outside Belgium, Germany, Italy, or the Netherlands, contact the IMCOM-Europe RSO at 0049-611-143-544-1530. Otherwise, see the list on [page 8](#).



**IMCOM-Europe  
Retirement Services Offices**

**GERMANY**

**Ansbach**

USAG Ansbach  
Unit 28614  
APO AE 09177-8614  
Tel. 0049-(0)9802-83-3301  
usarmy.ansbach.imcom-  
europe.list.rso@mail.mil

**Bamberg (closes Aug 14)**

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

**Baumholder**

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

**BELGIUM**

USAG Benelux  
US NATO/SHAPE SUPT GP  
CMR 451  
APO AE 09708-0451  
Tel. 0032-65-44-6293  
usarmy.benelux.imcom-  
europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

**IMCOM-Europe (Sembach,  
Germany)**

IMCOM-Europe RSO  
(IMEU-GB-RSO)  
Unit 23103  
APO AE 09136-3103  
Tel 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530  
usarmy.sembach.imcom-  
europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-  
imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil

**Bavaria**

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

**Schweinfurt (closes Aug 14)**

USAG Schweinfurt  
CMR 457  
APO AE 09033-0457  
Tel. 0049-(0)9721-96-8919  
usarmy.schweinfurt.imcom-  
europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

**NETHERLANDS**

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

**Stuttgart**

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

**Wiesbaden**

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

**ITALY/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST**

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

If you are calling from outside of Germany, use the country code 0049. Do not dial the (0) prefix. (For example, if dialing a number in Frankfurt, dial 0049-69-xxx.)

**NOTE:** RSO offices are open only during normal duty hours.

**To report a retiree's death,** call the IMCOM-Europe Casualty Assistance Center at 0049-6302-67-5883 (open 24 hours a day/7 days a week).