

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 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.

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:

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all at one of the retiree events during 2015. Remember, the quicker you bring up issues and problems, the quicker we can work on them and solve them where possible.



MIKE MALONE
IMCOM-Europe RSO



IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREE BULLETIN



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IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletins are available at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.

New Telephone Number for the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office

The telephone number for the IMCOM-Europe RSO located on Sembach Kaserne is military 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530. The office is open Monday to Friday from 0800-1500.

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:

Telephone: 0049-69-90-555-1100
Fax: 0049-69-749352
E-mail address: fbu.frankfurt@ssa.gov

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday
0800 to 1100

The office is closed on German and American holidays and on 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](#)).

USAG Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) in 2015

Please note that dates are subject to change based on military priorities. Always check with your local RSO before departing for an event.

The following RADs are scheduled for 2015:

USAG Ansbach: Thursday, 21 May 2015, at the Von Steuben Community Center on Bismarck Kaserne from 1000-1400 (doors open at 0900 for registration and close at

1300). Medical services include immunization shots, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmaceutical information. Representatives of the following services will attend: the Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, Army Community Services, 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: The Veterans Administration and DFAS-Cleveland to audit retired pay records and provide assistance. In addition, the garrison has requested the Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt attend the event. The location may change due to military missions.

USAG BENELUX: Saturday, 3 October 2015, in the Medical Clinic at SHAPE, from 0900 to 1200 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1100). Garrison support agencies will be represented and DFAS-Cleveland to audit retired pay records and provide assistance. The location may change due to military missions.

Schinnen Community: Friday, 9 October 2015, in building 39, Community Events Center, from 1000-1400 (doors open at 0930 for registration and close at 1300). Garrison support agencies will be represented and DFAS-Cleveland to audit retired pay records and provide assistance. The location may change due to military missions.

USAG Vicenza: USAG Vicenza will host a RAD on **Friday, 16 October 2015**, from 0900-1300 for all retirees and their Family members. Some of the anticipated services include audiology, blood-pressure screening, diabetes info, Family practice, immunizations, infection control, nutrition care, occupational therapy, orthopedics, optometry, pharmacy, TRICARE, wellness advice, and dental. A representative from DFAS-Cleveland will be present to assist retirees with any pay issues. The Federal Benefits Unit, Rome, has been invited to attend. Currently the event is scheduled to be held in the Deployment Support Center in

building 300A on Camp Ederle. The location may change due to military missions.

USAG Wiesbaden: The Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Wiesbaden will be on **Saturday, 31 October 2015**, in building 1011 (Community Activities Center) from 0900 to 1300 (doors open for Registration at 0800 and close at 1200). The event includes a Speakers Program with the Commanding General, USAREUR, and the Co-Chairman of the Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council both invited to speak. The speaker's portion of the event will be from 0900 to 1000. Representatives from garrison agencies such as the ID-card office and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the Installation Access Control System, legal assistance, USAREUR Regional Medical Command and USAREUR Regional Dental Command will be available during the day to answer questions and provide services. A representative from the Veterans Administration will be available to assist with questions and issues.

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz and Ramstein Air Force Base will hold a joint RAD on **Tuesday, 13 October 2015**, at the Ramstein Officers Club from 0900 to 1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1300). Community services will be available. DFAS-Cleveland Retired pay records audit and assistance and community support agencies will be represented.

USAG Stuttgart: Thursday, 22 October 2015, at Patch Barracks, Swabian Special Events Center (subject to change), from 0900-1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close 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,

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, the USO, AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. Representatives of the following outside agencies will attend: DFAS-Cleveland Retired pay records audit and assistance and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social Security and VA information), if they have funding. The VFW and USAA will also attend the event. The location may change due to military missions.

USAG Bavaria: Friday, 23 May 2014, in building 244, main post, from 0900 to 1400 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1300). 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, Army Community Services, 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: DFAS-Cleveland Retired pay records audit and assistance and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social Security and VA information), if they have funding. The location may change due to military missions.

Increased Surgery Access at LRMC

Increased opportunities for surgical procedures are currently available at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) for retirees, DOD civilian employees, and Family members.

"When the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan were busy, our focus was treating Wounded Warriors arriving at LRMC from theater," said Colonel (Dr.) Brian Sonka, Chief of the Division of Surgery at LRMC. "Now that the flow of patients has thankfully slowed down from the

Middle East, Landstuhl wants to allow greater access to care to our beneficiaries and the opportunity to keep our surgeons gainfully employed.”

The surgical specialties at LPMC include orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology, general surgery, neurosurgery, spine surgery, plastic surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, ear, nose, and throat surgery, oral surgery, occupational and physical therapy.

“There is a lot of capability at Landstuhl and our surgeons have years of experience dealing with complex trauma and surgical cases from the Middle East, Africa, and Eurasia,” said Captain Rob Davis, Chief of LPMC Managed Care. “We want to capitalize on maintaining these skill sets and providing a high level of care to the retirees and DOD civilians in the Kaiserslautern Military Community that support the active duty population and their Families every day.”

The change is especially significant for DOD civilian employees and retirees whose German doctors refer them to a surgical specialist. In most cases, Dr. Sonka said that retirees and DOD civilians can be seen at LPMC for surgical consultation unless the patient has a problem that requires a specialty or capability not available at LPMC. Other specialties such as dermatology, endocrinology, rheumatology, and gastroenterology would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

How does this work? How do I access LPMC if I am seeing a host nation provider?

If a retiree or DOD civilian is seeing a host-nation provider for primary care and has a specialty care referral, they can either call the LPMC TRICARE Office at military 590-4830 or civilian 06371-9464-4830 and ask for Referral Management or they can bring their referral in person to the LPMC TRICARE Office in building 3744 (near the AAFES Gas Station) at LPMC.

The LPMC Referral Management Team at the TRICARE Office will work with the clinics and surgeons at LPMC and facilitate the care if appropriate. The LPMC Referral Management Team can take referrals in German as well. There is no need to have them translated before contacting the LPMC TRICARE Office.

(LPMC News Release 36, 16 September 2014)

Lieutenant General Frederick “Ben” Hodges is the New U.S. Army Europe Commander

As of 5 November 2014, Lieutenant General Frederick “Ben” Hodges assumed command of the United States Army Europe.

A native of Quincy, Florida, Lieutenant General Hodges graduated from the United States Military Academy in May 1980 and was commissioned in the Infantry.

After his first assignment as an infantry lieutenant in Germany, he commanded infantry units at the company, battalion, and brigade levels in the 101st Airborne Division and in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His most recent operational assignment was as Director of Operations, Regional Command South, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Lieutenant General Hodges has also served in a variety of Joint and Army staff positions to include Tactics Instructor at the Infantry School; Chief of Plans, 2d Infantry Division in Korea; Aide-de-Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Army Congressional Liaison Officer; Task Force Senior Observer Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA; Coalition/Joint-3 (CJ3) of Multinational Corps-Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom; Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg; and Director of the Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell on the Joint Staff; Chief of Legislative Liaison for the United States Army. His last assignment was as the Commander, NATO Allied Land Command from 2012 to 2014.

(USAREUR PAO Office, 5 Nov 2014)

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>.

Turning 65 and Filing for MEDICARE Part B

Approximately 180-120 days before turning 65, TRICARE Management Activity will forward a letter to the address you maintain in TRICARE/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).

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 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 or provide any services to you.

NOTE: TRICARE for Life provides the same coverage as TRICARE Standard.

Failure to pay MEDICARE Part B premiums in a timely manner will cause a break in your TRICARE-for-Life coverage.

TRICARE Does Not Cover Long-Term Healthcare

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 the FLTCIP. For more information, call 001-800-582-3337.

Not Filing your TRICARE Claim Within 1 Year May Cause Problems

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. File claims by completing DD Form 2642 (TRICARE DOD/Champus Claim, Patient's Request for Medical Payment). Ensure you include proof of payment with the claim.

Claims received after 1 year from the date of service may not be honored if the individual did not submit the claim in a timely manner. If the bill was dated later than 1 year after the date the service was provided, then 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.

Claims for the reimbursement of costs for drugs are a big issue. Ensure a prescription indicates the **American name of the 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 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 go to MyPay and enter the information. If you have an APO address – no problem – input it but remember to change it when you move. Local civilian addresses normally cannot be entered in MyPay because the town is not listed on the dropdown menu and there is no a blank line to input a town. My understanding is that there were too many misspellings of towns. Please do not select a town near you from the drop down list as your town. Also remember to 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 feature indicated.

Here is an example of a correct APO address:

CMR 467, Box 0001
APO AE 09096-0001

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

The postal code plus-4 addresses should be used when addressing an APO box number. If you do not know your complete postal code, ask your local Community Mail Service Center for assistance.

Retiree Bulletin by E-Mail

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

Looking for an RSO?

If you live outside Belgium, Germany, Italy, or the Netherlands, contact the IMCOM-Europe RSO at military network 314-544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-544-1530. Otherwise, see the list on [page 8](#).

Retiree Info List Server

The Retiree Info List Server is a means of automatically receiving e-mail containing information of interest to Retired Soldiers and their Families and Survivors living in the Army in Europe.

If you do not receive postings 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 website <http://www.eur.army.mil/g1/> and following the instructions that come up. Should you later decide you no longer want to receive postings, follow the instructions for unsubscribing, which are provided at the bottom of each posting.

**IMCOM-Europe
Retirement Services Offices**

GERMANY

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

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

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

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

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

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

BELGIUM

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

NETHERLANDS

Schinnen Community
Unit 21602
APO AE 09703-1602
Tel: 0031-45-526-3475
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
usarmy.vicenza.imcom-europe.
mbx.retirement-services@mail.mil

**HQ IMCOM-EUROPE
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APO AE 09136-3103
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1530
usarmy.sembach.imcom-
europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-
imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil

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

NOTE: RSO Offices are open during normal duty hours only.

To report a retiree's death, call the IMCOM-Europe Casualty Assistance
Center at 0049-(0)6302-67-5883 (open 24 hours a day/7 days a week).