



***U.S. ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND-PFALZ
RETIRED SOLDIER/SPOUSE AND SURVIVING
SPOUSES
DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER***



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL RETIREES, SPOUSES AND SURVIVING
SPOUSES IN THE RHEINLAND-PFALZ FOOTPRINT.**

I can't believe it is almost the end of the year. It seems like yesterday that I was writing a December Newsletter.

I hope that all our Retiree families had a nice Thanksgiving and are ready to celebrate the Christmas festivities around our host nation. Get out there and have yourself a glass of gluhwein or punch at one of the many Christmas markets in the area.

Your Retirement Services Office is gearing up for some great things in the New Year. My emphasis has been and always will be on making life a little bit easier for our Retiree family and, to that end, I will be partnering with the 21st TSC Legal Center to host an upcoming Estate Planning Workshop. This goes hand in hand with our Next Chapter Preparation and Counseling program that we have initiated a year or so ago. There will be a plethora of information concerning wills, Power of Attorneys, Advance Directives, etc. and will have the Legal personnel present to answer any questions and make appointments for their services. We will announce the Date/Time and location

through our Distribution list after the New Year.

In April, the US Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Retirement Services office will be teaming up with the US Army Regional Mortuary to host our 3rd annual Retiree Survivor Workshop. Once again, we will announce the venue, date, and time after the New Year.

At our 2023 RAD, I noticed a lot of Retirees, Spouses and the Surviving Spouses were having problems with the DS logons. Our office is hoping to help as we will be planning a workshop with our IT friends to help Retirees sign in with DS logon and, also to remove the mysteries behind the computer. This will be open to all with a computer and the intent is to help everyone resolve the common problems with DS Logon.

As you can tell, we are busily planning for the New Year and that is only the tip of the iceberg. I maintain my commitment to all our Retiree Families to provide you with as much information, assistance and guidance as we can because we do not want any of you left “in the dark”.

That’s it for now. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns drop me an email or give me a call and we will do our best to help. I wish all Retirees/Spouses and Surviving Spouses the merriest of Christmases and a very Happy New Year. I will talk with you in January.

Erik Thomsen
USAG Rheinland-Pfalz
Retirement Services Officer





From
the desk
of...

**LTC (RET) BENJAMIN STRANGE
KMC RETIREE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Another Year Has Flown By

Seems to me not too long ago, I was celebrating the Advent of 2023. The saying that “time doesn’t stand still” should more appropriately be called “time flies.” A new year is almost upon us and Christmas is around the corner. Hopefully, most of us can get out and attend the Christmas markets with their crisp fresh night air and aromas of freshly baked Christmas treats and enjoy a cup (or two) of steaming Gluhwein. More importantly, I hope we all can remain healthy and enjoy the presence of family during the upcoming holidays.

Now to switch gears and inform you of the goings-on of the KMC Retiree Council. On 9 January of next year, members of the Retiree Council, representatives of the USAF Retiree Activities Office (RAO) at Ramstein AFB, and representatives of

other retired military organizations outside of the KMC footprint will meet with the LRMC CDR and his staff to discuss retiree health care issues. We strive to meet with the LRMC CDR annually and address those health care matters that are important to our retiree community. If you have questions and/or concerns about issues you want addressed, then let Erik Thomsen or me know so that we may bring those to the LRMC CDR's attention and have them discussed during our meeting. We will publish the meeting minutes in a future Newsletter.

Finally, if you have topics that you would like to see addressed in the Newsletter let us know. My objective is to write about subjects that are important and interesting to our readers. Conversely, if you would like to write an article for the Newsletter, let Erik or myself know. I'll bet our readership has some fertile ideas which will make our Newsletter an even more enjoyable read.

Until next year!

Benny





OVERSEAS MILITARY SERVICE COORDINATORS (OMSC) RETURN

I told you about this last month and their offices here on Kleber Kaserne are busy with Veterans and others seeking assistance with Disability Claims and other information. Beginning in 2024, you will begin to see articles that are written by the OMSCs that are here in the Kaiserslautern area and these will be topics of major importance to you, our Retiree Family, Spouses, and Survivors. Our office is also working have them periodically be a guest on the “Just for Retirees” Radio show. Stay tuned for all the information from another service that is offered to you.

VA Overseas Military Services Coordinators (OMSCs)



We're back, and ready to assist you with all your VA benefit questions!
Kleber Kaserne, Building 3213, Room 311, Kaiserslautern, Germany 67657
DSN: (314) 541-1408 / (314) 541-1415
Comm: +49 (0) 611-143-541-1408 / +49 (0) 611-143-541-1415
Normal Office Hours: 0900-1200, 1300-1500 M-F

**Subject to change due to special events and travel. Please check our online calendar for operating status, or to schedule an In-Person Appointment or Phone Conference

E-mail for Kaiserslautern, Ramstein, Wiesbaden, Baumholder, Sembach, Spangdahlem, Belgium, Netherlands	Online Calendar:	E-mail for Stuttgart, Vilseck, Grafenwohr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Garmisch, Bavaria Region, Poland:
		
SCAN ME	SCAN ME	SCAN ME
OMSC@131-143VAPO@va.gov	https://calendar.com/va-omsc-stein	OMSC@131-143VAPO@va.gov

NEWS FROM DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE 2024 CHANGES FOR RETIREE/ANNUITANT PAY

*10%-20% Disability

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$171.23
20%	\$338.49

*30%-60% Disability

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$524.31	\$755.28	\$1,075.16	\$1,361.88
Veteran with Spouse	\$586.23	\$837.84	\$1,178.36	\$1,486.75
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$631.64	\$898.73	\$1,254.72	\$1,577.565
Veteran with Child	\$565.59	\$811.01	\$1,144.30	\$1,445.47
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$30.96	\$41.28	\$51.60	\$61.92
additional for Disabled spouse	\$57.79	\$76.37	\$95.98	\$114.55



***70%-100% Disability**

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,716.28	\$1,995.01	\$2,241.91	\$3,737.85
Veteran with Spouse	\$1,861.79	\$2,161.16	\$2,428.70	\$3,946.25
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$1,968.09	\$2,282.94	\$2,565.95	\$4,098.88
Veteran with Child	\$1,813.29	\$2,106.47	\$2,442.51	\$3,877.22
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$72.24	\$82.56	\$92.88	\$103.55
Each Additional Schoolchild Over 18	\$233.23	\$267.29	\$300.31	\$334.49
Additional for A/A spouse	\$134.16	\$152.74	\$172.34	\$191.14



30%-60% Disability (With Dependent Parents)

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with One Parent	\$573.84	\$903.89	\$1,261.95	\$1,586.85
Veteran with Two Parents	\$623.38	\$887.38	\$1,242.34	\$1,562.09
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$615.12	\$877.06	\$1,227.89	\$1,545.57
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$664.66	\$943.10	\$1,311.49	\$1,645.68
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$681.17	\$964.78	\$1,338.32	\$1,677.67
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$730.71	\$1,030.82	\$1,421.91	\$1,777.77



***70%-100% Disability (With Dependent Parents)**

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,832.89	\$2,128.14	\$2,391.51	\$3,905.11
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,949.51	\$2,261.27	\$2,541.19	\$4,072.36
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,929.90	\$2,239.59	\$2,516.42	\$4,044.48
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$2,046.52	\$2,372.72	\$2,666.06	\$4,211.74
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$2,084.70	\$2,416.07	\$2,715.59	\$4,266.13
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$2,201.32	\$2,549.19	\$2,865.23	\$4,433.39



2024 PAY SCHEDULES FOR RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS

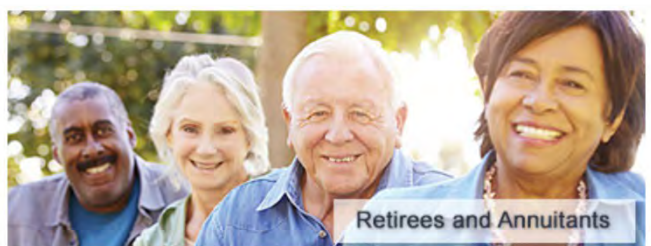
Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
September 2023	September 29, 2023	October 2, 2023
October 2023	November 1, 2023	November 1, 2023
November 2023	December 1, 2023	December 1, 2023
December 2023	December 29, 2023	January 2, 2024
January 2024	February 1, 2024	February 1, 2024
February 2024	March 1, 2024	March 1, 2024
March 2024	April 1, 2024	April 1, 2024
April 2024	May 1, 2024	May 1, 2024
May 2024	May 31, 2024	June 3, 2024
June 2024	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2024
July 2024	August 1, 2024	August 1, 2024
August 2024	August 30, 2024	September 3, 2024
September 2024	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2024
October 2024	November 1, 2024	November 1, 2024
November 2024	November 29, 2024	December 2, 2024
December 2024	December 31, 2024	January 2, 2025



DFAS ADDS MORE UPLOADING TOOLS TO AID RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS

We continue to build a suite of online tools that allow forms and required documentation to be filled out or uploaded at askDFAS on the DFAS.mil website, which is also accessible on a mobile browser.

askDFAS tools are a quick and easy way to submit select forms and documents to us directly. Instead of mailing or faxing completed forms,



Military Retiree and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuitants Resources

- If you are a military retiree, please see the **resources in the next section**.
- If you are a Survivor Benefit Plan annuitant, please see the **SBP Annuitant resources** in the section that follows the military retiree section.
- If you are looking for other resources, please scroll to the **Other Resources section**

Submitting Forms via Online Upload Tools

- Use the handy [askDFAS online upload tool](#) to submit your forms to DFAS for processing.

How to Submit Documents Using the askDFAS Online Upload Tools

- 1-Click on the "askDFAS online upload tool" link above or use this URL: <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/custMain.action?mid=12>
- 2-Click "Submit a Ticket"
- 3-Select Category = "Retired Pay Form Submission"
- 4-Select the Subcategory that matches the form(s) or document(s) you are submitting
- 5-Fill out all applicable information
- 6-Attach your completed and signed documents
- 7-Select "Upload File(s)"
- 8-Select "Submit"

Please note: All documents submitted via an askDFAS online upload tool must be in PDF format; include name and SSN on each attachment (annuitants: please include the member's SSN)



Users can now either fill out an online form or upload them directly in a PDF through the askDFAS online tools on the [DFAS.mil](https://www.dfas.mil) website.

Please note all documents uploaded to an askDFAS online tool MUST be in PDF format and contain the Social Security Number of the retiree or deceased member. Also, the askDFAS online upload tools can only accept the specific form and documentation noted on the specific upload tool.

Other requests or documents cannot be processed through that online upload tool.

See more information about askDFAS Online Upload Tools by clicking on Retirees & Annuitants at:

<https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas>

SBP OPEN SEASON DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

As you all may be aware our SBP open season deadline is fast approaching and will end at midnight (Eastern time) on 01 Jan 2024. If you have not already done so and wish to discontinue participation, now would be the time to pay a visit to our offices and we can help you to disenroll. Likewise, if you wish to enroll, now is the time; but, you need to be aware that there will be costs involved with enrolling in SBP and must be carefully discussed with your Spouse.



PRE-DEATH PROGRAM TITLE CHANGE!!!

The program formerly known as the Pre-Death Program has a new title. The new title is, “Next Chapter Preparation and Counseling Service (NCPC). It is still the same program which allows you and your Spouse to come into my office and complete all the documents needed for DFAS, VA, Consulate and Social Security; plus, a list of Funeral Homes that are in your postal code. The response has been tremendous and is still being well received with approx. 3 to 4 appointments per week. Call my office at 06111-43541-1021 for more information and your appointment. Take care of your spouse and don’t leave THEM unprepared. They will thank you for reducing their stress and not leaving them unprepared.





JUST FOR RETIREES RADIO SHOW

The radio show that is made just for you, the Retiree. We are live on the air every 2nd Friday from 1600-1630 and every 4th Monday from 1500-1530. The next show will be 12 January from 1500-1530. I want to thank those who sent in your questions for the last show and, remember, if you have a topic you wish to have discussed, please send me that topic so we can address your concerns.



2023 RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (RAD)

Another RAD is in the books and I want to thank all of you who sent in your AAR Comments. We received about 4 pages of good, bad and improvements needed. Our 2024 RAD committee, with our office the lead agency, will be taking a close look at those comments and will try to implement as many as we can. Keep submitting ideas as this is for YOU (Retiree, Spouse and Surviving Spouse).

DO YOU KNOW WE HAVE TWO OFFICES TO SERVE YOU?

We do have two offices in which to serve you, our Retirees, Spouses and surviving Spouses. I am in Baumholder the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 0900-1500 and by appointment. For all of you who live in the BMC area, I encourage you to come visit us in Building 8660 (Baumholder Military Personnel Division). Of course, we are still located on Kleber Kaserne in the Central Processing Facility, Building 3245, Room 217. Stop by and say hello.



BATTLE BUDDIES REUNITING

Check out Roll Call every Saturday morning and Monday evening at Café Rhema in Landstuhl. This is a place where it is Military friendly with treats, coffee, relaxing or just getting reacquainted with a Battle Buddy from previous service. There are many other services offered for Roll Call. Check it out!





DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

04 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1700

**07 DECEMBER: DUE TO DECEMBER HOLIDAYS, I WILL BE AT
OUR BAUMHOLDER OFFICE FROM 0900-1500.**

09 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA LANDSTUHL 1000

11 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1700

**14 DECEMBER: I WILL BE AT THE BAUMHOLDER OFFICE
(WEATHER PENDING)**

**15 DECEMBER: CASUALTY AND RSO OFFICE CLOSED FROM
1200-1600**

16 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1000

18 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1700

23 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1000

25 DECEMBER: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!! OFFICE CLOSED

30 DECEMBER: ROLL CALL CAFÉ RHEMA, LANDSTUHL 1000

**31 DECEMBER: GOODBYE 2023 AND HELLO 2024. OFFICE
IS CLOSED AND WILL RETURN 02 JAN 24.**



SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

Please feel free to contact our office at any time with questions, issues, or concerns. We are here 24 hours a day/7 day a week for

YOU, THE RETIREE!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!!!!!!



CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Retirement Services Officers for USAG Rheinland-Pfalz:

Erik Thomsen/Dale Vogel

Bldg. 3245 Room 217 Kleber Kaserne

Kaiserslautern Military Community

Cell: 0611 143 541 1021

To report a death, call: 0160 1085 359

Email: usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.id-europe.mbx.garrison-retiree-svcs@army.mil

Webpage: <https://home.army.mil/rheinland-pfalz/index.php/about/directorates-support-offices/directorate-human-resources-dhr/post-retirement-services-program>