



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



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November/December 2017

A publication of the Yokota Retiree Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is to support the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees, their family members, and surviving spouses residing in the local area. Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from various government sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy or currency can be given nor should be assumed.

COLA for 2018 is Announced: In case you missed it, the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be 2% in 2018 which is the first substantial increase in years.

The COLA for Retired military veterans, VA rates for compensation and pension for disabled veterans and surviving families will be effective December 1, 2017 and will be reflected on the first check to be paid on December 31, 2017.

Social Security benefits will be effective beginning with the December 2017 benefits, which are payable in January 2018. (Various sources)

Get Ready for Tax Season! Make sure your myPay Account is Active:

When was the last time you logged into on to myPay? Some retirees only use myPay once a year to get their 1099-R during tax season. Then they try to access their account and discover that their password is expired or forgotten. If you are not a regular user of **myPay**, be proactive this year to avoid delays in getting your tax forms.

Expired Passwords. Do you know if your password has expired? myPay passwords expire every 150 days. You will automatically receive an email about 10 days before your password expires to remind you to update your password. To find out more about password requirements visit: <http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/password.html>

Reactivating your myPay account. If your myPay account is in an inactive status because your password has expired, follow these steps to reactivate your account.

1. Go to the myPay website at: mypay.dfas.mil
2. Click on the "Forgot or Need a Password?" link and enter your Login ID

3. Choose to send a temporary password to your email and then go back to mypay.dfas.mil and log in to activate your account.

Don't wait until January, February, or March to access your **myPay** account Log on to **myPay** today to be prepared for tax season. (Source: DFAS.mil)

Arrears of Pay (AOP): Arrears of Pay is a one-time payment made to a beneficiary after your death. The AOP to your beneficiary will include: The pro-rated amount of your final month's pay, and any other money owed to your at the time of your death.

When a retiree dies, DFAS sends any unpaid retired pay to the AOP beneficiaries on record. Retirees frequently forget who their beneficiaries of record are, and occasionally need to update or change a beneficiary.

Designating a sole beneficiary in your will does not automatically make that person your AOP beneficiary. AOP determination is based exclusively on the AOP beneficiary election in your retired pay account. Unless otherwise noted, your AOP beneficiary will also be the person DFAS contacts for assistance in closing your account, so it is important to designate a person you trust to handle your affairs.

The AOP designation does not entitle the person named as a beneficiary(s) to SBP. A separate SBP election must be made to cover the desired individual for SBP purposes.

Doing this used to require sending forms via mail, then waiting for the account to be updated. You can change your beneficiary, or update beneficiary contact information at any time through your **myPay** account.

- Log into **myPay**
- Select "Beneficiary for Arrears"
- Your current beneficiary designation will display
- Click on "Designate Beneficiaries"
- Enter Beneficiary information
- Click "Continue" to add additional beneficiaries

- When you have completed the designation of your beneficiaries click on "Confirm Beneficiaries"
- Review your changes, and if correct select "Yes"
- This transaction will overwrite and replace any previous elections
- Save or Print your new beneficiary designations.

You can also update your arrears of pay beneficiary by completing a Designation of Beneficiary Information form (DD 2894) and mailing or faxing it to DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay. If you chose to use this method, allow 30-60 days after DFAS receives your designation for them to process it. (Source: (DFAS.Mil))

Retired and Annuitant Pay's New

Address: Just a reminder that the DFAS mailing addresses were changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses have been discontinued and replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. the new addresses are:

For retirees:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

For Annuitants:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London, KY will remain open and all mail to the old addressees will be forwarded to the new address for one year. (Source: DFAS.mil)

Memorial Service: Retired USAF LtCol Roy Birkhead passed away a few weeks ago. His widow Yasuko Birkhead is having a memorial service for him in the Yokota main chapel from 1000-1100 on Friday 3 November 2017.

Roy retired some years ago and has been living here in Japan ever since. Some of you may know Roy personally, and may have worked with him while he was on active duty.

Yokota Military Retiree Association:

The YMRA will hold its next two monthly breakfast meetings on 4 November and 2 December at 0900 in the enlisted club dining room. These meetings are open to all military retirees regardless of branch of service, their spouses, and widows of retirees.

Breakfast is provided free when you order before 0830 (no exceptions). The business side of things starts at 0900.

Widows' Support Luncheon: The next quarterly Widows' Support Luncheon is scheduled for 1 December from 1200-1400 in the auditorium of the Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC), Building 535.

This luncheon is co-sponsored by the A&FRC and the Yokota RAO, and is open to all widows of military retirees as well as widows whose spouse passed away while on active duty. It serves as a venue for the widows to get together to share experiences and to let them know that they are still part of the overall military family.

If you know of a widow who is not aware of this luncheon please pass this information on. For additional information call the A&FRC at 225-8725 or the RAO at 225-8324.

Veterans Day Ceremony: The Veterans Day Ceremony for this year will be held on Friday the 10th of November at 0900 hours in front of building 315 (374 AW Headquarters). As part of the ceremony, local VFW Post 9555, will be performing a three-flower ceremony as a way to show respect for all veterans, past and present. Retirees and their family members are invited to join us.

Later at 1100 hours in front of the YCC the American Red Cross and USO are sponsoring a Veterans Day cookout. Free hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be available to the Yokota community.

This is our last newsletter of the year. Best wishes from the RAO staff for a wonderful and safe holiday season for you and your family.

Your comments concerning articles you see here, or questions concerning military retiree benefits and services are always welcome.

The RAO is located in building 535. Contact us by email at: yokota.rao@us.af.mil. By DSN phone 225-8324, from off base (042) 552-2510 ext. 58324. If you call during non-office hours, leave a message and we will get back to you. The RAO is normally open 0900-1500 Monday thru Friday, closed holidays and family days.