



Fall 2025 RETIREE NEWSLETTER

Retiree Activities Office (RAO)

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IN THIS ISSUE

Disclaimer & RAO Services -----	pg. 3
2025 Travis Retiree Appreciation Day-----	pg. 4
Travis RAO Future Plans-----	pg. 4
Veterans Day and Veterans Day Events-----	pg. 5
Safety and Cyber Fraud Protection Tips-----	pg. 6
RAO Closure & Events-----	pg. 7
McClellan Park RAO Volunteer Recruitment-----	pg. 7
FEDVIP Open Season-----	pg. 8
Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention	
Resource Faire-----	pg. 8
myPay Preparing for 2025 Tax Year Season-----	pg. 9
Next Gen ID Card Renewals – Spouse turns 65-----	pg.10

DISCLAIMER

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The appearance or mention of commercial products or services is not meant to imply endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Articles appearing in this newsletter are gleaned from Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, local sources, other installation RAO newsletters, and our retiree population.

No commercial gain is derived for this publication. News items are current as of their use in this newsletter. Please advise of any errors, omissions, or suggestions for improving our newsletter.

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RAO Services

The Travis Retiree Activities Office and David Grant USAF Medical Center's Medical Retiree Activities Office programs would not function without a cadre of active volunteers! Volunteer shortages affect our ability to provide services to the local retiree community.

We are rebuilding volunteer staffing. If you have three to six hours a week you can spare, please consider serving as a volunteer.

We provide services to military retirees, family members, and surviving spouses. Medical Center volunteers work the Pharmacy customer service windows, provide patients with directions to various clinics inside David Grant USAF Medical Center, provide comfort dog services, shuttle medical records from the records section to the clinics, and help the active-duty medical staff.

The Retiree Activities Office in Bldg. 381 assist military retirees, veterans, and their families in making ID Card renewal appointments, reserve, and guard members in applying for retired pay, estate planning, and retiree and annuitant pay issues. We provide referrals and guidance in accessing earned benefits and services.

We look forward to discussing volunteer opportunities with interested candidates.

2025 Travis AFB Retiree Appreciation Day



The 60th AMW will host the 2025 Military Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 8 am to 3 pm at the Travis Aviation Museum, 461 Borgan

Blvd, Travis AFB.

Check-in runs from 8 am to 8:55 am. Attendees can mingle, enjoy coffee, bagels, and pastries (while supplies last) and catch up with friends before the briefings start

Ou

. Presentations begin after the posting of the colors and Wing leadership's opening remarks, followed by briefings from various organizations:

- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Air Force Enlisted Village (Bob Hope Village/Hawthorn House)
- Travis AFB Casualty Assistance/Survivor Benefits Office
- Concord Vet Center/Mobile Vet Center
- 60th Aerial Port Squadron
- (Space A Travel)
- Area II Representative Air Force Retiree Council Representative

Information tables will be staffed by base units, veterans' service, and community organizations offering details about their services for retirees, veterans and their

families.

The Sacramento Valley Veterans Cemetery, Dixon, California is sending staff to brief Travis area retirees about burial services and benefit changes. The MOAA briefing will provide valuable information concerning congressional legislative updates.

We hope to see you there!

RAO FUTURE PLANS

We are working with the 60th FSS to schedule training sessions using their training room when it is not in use for active-duty purposes.

We plan on starting sessions sometime after the 2025 Military Retiree Appreciation Day event in October.

Some of the topics we want to cover include setting up myPay accounts, establishing, maintaining, and securing myPay, MHS Genesis, MilConnect, and other government accounts.

We will put a heavy emphasis on fraud prevention and online security. The purpose of the training sessions is to get our retiree customers use to handling their affairs online since the government and DOD are making more services, self-service.

We are setting up a self-service micro-pc kiosk in our office we will use to offer one-on-one training in account setup.



Tuesday, November 11th marks Veterans Day. A day that honors all veterans that have honorably served and worn the uniform in defense of the Nation.

Many of us had uncles that served during World War II and the Korean Conflict. The Greatest Generation has just about died out and those of us that served during the Vietnam War are slowly fading away.

In our teenage years many of the World War II and Korean War Veterans left indelible marks on our lives. They didn't talk much about their exploits during war. They came home to start families, take on jobs, serve as teachers, and help build their communities.

They loved their country and its institutions and never lost faith in it or its traditions. They reflected the best of us.

To all our brothers and sisters in uniform, give yourself a pat on the back and never doubt your honor or value. To those serving today, keep faith and accept our deepest thanks and appreciation for your service.

Local Veterans Day Events

The City of Fairfield is holding a community concert at the downtown theater on November 11th at 10AM.

The theme for this year's Veterans' Day Parade is "*Forever Grateful*". The parade will begin at 12:30PM on November 11th.

If you belong to an organization that wishes to participate or if you need more information, check the City of Fairfield's website at:

<https://www.fairfield.ca.gov/our-city/city-events/veterans-day-parade> [Parade | Fairfield, CA](#)

Vacaville will be hosting a Veterans' Day Parade on the 11th of November. The parade's theme is "***Serving with Honor***".

Travis AFB will perform a flyover during the event. Food trucks, vendors, and a special speaker will be featured. Check the City of Vacaville's website for more information.

VFW Post 8151 in Dixon will be holding a **Buddy Poppy Drive** at the Safeway in Dixon from the 8th of November through the 11th of November.

Currently, nothing has been posted to the Dixon's official website about city-sponsored Veterans' Day observances. Recommend checking the following website for updates:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ca--dixon/veteran%27s-day/teran's Day Events & Activities in Dixon, CA | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ca--dixon/veteran%27s-day/teran's+Day+Events+&+Activities+in+Dixon,+CA/)

[Welcome](#)

[https://www.cityofdixonca.gov/to the Official Website of the City of Dixon, CA - home](https://www.cityofdixonca.gov/to-the-official-website-of-the-city-of-dixon-ca-home)

Holiday Safety

Thanksgiving is just around the corner! If you are hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and alcoholic beverages are being served, keep a close eye on your guests.

Make sure they don't over imbibe and head out the door. If you are a guest watch your consumption and have a designated driver available.

Thanksgiving and the holiday season will be marked by a maximum enforcement drive by the CHP and local law enforcement. None of us should be driving under the influence anyway.

Friday, most of us will be dealing with a food hangover and mass crowds of crazed shoppers stampeding for deals at local establishments.

When you park your car, park it in a high traffic, well-lit area. Have your keys ready to open your car doors, and don't let anyone distract you when entering your vehicle.

Use your credit cards instead of a debit card when making purchases and keep them shielded with your hand at the register. Credit cards give you more protection against fraudulent purchases if they are compromised.

Keep your purchases out of sight, attended, and locked up in your trunk. If you buy high value items, store the empty boxes out of sight. Burglars case

garages looking for homes that have high-value items worth stealing and fencing.

Are you taking an extended Thanksgiving weekend trip? Get plenty of rest, drive the speed limit, and be a good driver. Don't engage yourself in a road rage incident. It just isn't worth it.

Be mindful and have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.



The holiday season, economic conditions, and world events bring on an increase in the amount of cyber fraud we get exposed to.

There is a saying that the only secure computer system is one that no one can use. However, here are some commonsense ways to protect yourself online:

- Delete emails from people or organizations you don't do business with.
- Only visit official government websites. In our case they end with .gov, .mil, .org., .edu, secure shopping sites web addresses start with https://
- The IRS never contacts you by email, it's always by official mail. If you are unsure call their customer service number.
- Don't respond to emails about traffic fines, bridge tolls, FASTRAK tolls - all scams. These come in by snail mail.

From the RAO Desk



The Travis Retiree Activities Office is closed for Federal Holidays and AMC Family Days.

Closures

Columbus Day Weekend (includes a Wing Family Day):	10 – 12 October 2025
Veterans Day (includes a Wing Family Day):	10 – 11 November 2025
Thanksgiving Day (includes a Wing Family Day):	27 – 29 November 2025

EVENTS

Saturday, 4 October 2025 – Travis AFB Retiree AFB Retiree Appreciation Day
Thursday, 6 November 2025 – Mental Health Awareness/Suicide Prevention Resource Faire
Monday, 10 November – Monday, 8 December 2025 FEDVIP Dental and Vision Insurance Plan Open Enrollment Season for Calendar Year 2026.

Urgent Notice!

The McClellan Park Satellite Retiree Activities Office is now staffed with three volunteers. We need to recruit a director and at least four more volunteers to keep the office open to serve retirees in the Sacramento region. If we can't bring on volunteers we will be forced to close the office. This means about a 60 -120 mile round trip to our office for Sacramento area retirees needing help or a drive to the Beale AFB RAO.

If you live in the Sacramento area and can commute to McClellan Park, please contact CMSgt. (Ret) Edmonds at the Travis Retiree Activities Office. We are seeking fully retired military in their early 60s with good computer research and people skills. Volunteers work with retirees having problems with ID Card appointments, TRICARE Benefits, VA Benefits Information, retired pay, and SBP annuity payment issues through the Defense Accounting and Finance Service.

2025 FEDVIP OPEN SEASON

Mental Health Awareness/Suicide Prevention



Do you need dental and vision insurance?
Are you unhappy with your current dental and vision insurance plan?

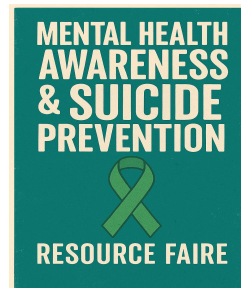
Now is the time to start looking. FEDVIP Open Season for calendar year 2026 begins on 10 November 2025 and ends on 8 December 2025 at midnight.

You can view carriers, plans, pricing, and services at [Benefeds.com](https://www.benefeds.com).

FEDVIP is managed by OPM. Open enrollment is only available once a year unless a family experiences a life qualifying event (adoption, marriage, death, divorce, etc.). See the [Benefeds.com](https://www.benefeds.com) website for more information.

There are about a dozen carriers that provide dental and vision insurance, so families have a range of plans to choose from.

To summarize, midnight 8 December is the deadline, so now is the time to pick an insurance carrier especially if you need dental insurance for your family.



Many people have family members or friends that struggled with mental health problems or who died by suicide.

The 60th Mission Support Squadron is hosting a Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Resource Faire on 6 November 2025.

The event will be held at the Military Family Readiness Center in the Parking Lot. The event will run from 10 AM through 5 PM.

We encourage as many as possible to attend the event to learn about the resources available to get the people you love and care about through these rough patches of life.

myPay and Preparing for the 2025 Tax Season

The end of calendar year 2025 is rapidly approaching. Now is the time to start planning for the dreaded tax filing season.



If you have a myPay account through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), you need to review your retiree account information.

It's especially important if you have moved, changed bank accounts, changed your telephone number, had a beneficiary die, got re-married, divorced, or adopted/had a child.

Keeping this information up to date insures DFAS can contact you if there are any major changes to your retiree pay account.

Military retirees and self-sponsored spouses receiving SBP annuity payments are encouraged to set up a myPay account.

myPay account access gives military retirees and SBP annuitants instant access to their retirement pay and SBP annuity account statements.

The ability to change tax withholding, update and change bank account deposit information, download IRS form 1099-Rs for annual tax filing, and change beneficiaries for Arrears of Pay (military retiree) are the prime benefit to having a myPay account.

Many of these changes can be requested by mail; however, DFAS indicates it may take 45-60 days to process. Even if you send the request by certified mail, the letter is usually signed for in the mail room and things are known to get lost in distribution.

Using myPay will save you time and money on postal fees and give you instant access to your account information.

If you don't own a computer, iPad, or Android tablet. You can still mail your request to DFAS.

We can generate a template for you to use and give you the mailing address, or we can fax a request to the Retired Pay Section/SBP Annuitant Fax number for you. Just be aware, we will need your actual Date of Retirement for the fax we send. Please do this at least 90 days out.

It takes DFAS some time to process mailed in requests. Faxed requests may take 7 to 10 business days to process and DFAS needs to receive those from a government agency fax machine and number.

There have been times in the past the DFAS Fax machine has been down, so when it happens it may entail another trip for you to our office.

Next Gen ID Card Renewals – Spouses turning 65

When a military retiree's spouse reaches the age of 65, he/she needs to renew their Next Gen ID Card.

At this age he/she is eligible for a Next Gen ID Card with an indefinite expiration date. The spouse is also eligible for TRICARE for Life provided he/she has enrolled in Medicare Part B three months prior to their 65th birthday.

If the spouse is enrolled in Medicare Part B, and he/she comes in and renews his/her ID card before attaining the age of 65, the new card will be issued with an expiration date.

We had a very irate retiree come into our office recently that said he was told his wife would be issued a card with an indefinite expiration date. She was enrolled in Medicare A and B, but she won't turn 65 until next month. Her old card was expiring at the end of the current month.

The volunteer explained to him that the MPF clerk that issued the card had applied the correct rules according to DOD Instructions the new ID card came with the expiration Date four years later and was correct.

The retiree left in a huff, said something about the volunteer being a #@!!% lifer and hurried out the door.

That lifer would be me – the author of this little missive. I've got thick skin and I've been called far worse things in my 74 plus years of life.

My team and I are here to assist you when we legally can. We are not paid --- we donate our time and talents to serve our retiree brothers and sisters.

We understand that some people will come to see us with problems that will leave them frustrated and angry. Take a deep breath, slow down, and we will see what we can do for you.

The downside to this situation is he will have to come back when she turns 65 to update her DEERS status and get military health care changed over to TRICARE for LIFE.

The upside to the situation is she has a current ID card she can use to enter the base, shop at the BX and Commissary, access medical services at DGMCC, use MWR facilities, and clear TSA lines at the airport since the card she was issued meets Real ID requirements.

The next time you visit our office, we hope your experience will be more pleasant. Please be nice to the volunteers on the desk. You will probably get better service.