



Retiree Newsletter

September 2018

Director's Message

Hello to all retirees and annuitants. Thank you for taking time to read about what's new with your retired or annuitant pay. The autumn season is very important and there is information in this newsletter that can help you over the next few months.

First, you need to make sure that your *myPay* account is ready for the upcoming tax season. There are two helpful articles on what you can do to get ready for the upcoming tax season.

There is also an article on how you can change your mailing address when you move or temporarily relocate so you don't miss important information, such as your tax documents.

We are trying to increase our communication with reserve service members in the gray area (a member of the reserve component of the military who has completed their drilling but has not yet started collecting military retired pay). If you have friends or family members in the gray area, please let them know that we are creating some website information designed especially for them and we will be putting new information out there periodically. The first information is intended to help family members who need to report the death of a gray area reservist and start their Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan annuity.

There is a change coming to the Tricare dental program available to retirees. Please be sure to read that article, as there is a lot of important information, including dates that you need to know about.

Thank you for your service to our country. Everyone at DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay truly is grateful to you. Enjoy the fall season and look for the next edition of this newsletter in December.

Let's Get Ready for Tax Season

Getting ready for the 2019 tax season should start now. The 2019 tax season will bring big changes for everyone.

For now, the most important task is to make sure that you have an active *myPay* account and that your mailing address is correct. If you have updated your information with another government agency, such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) or the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Service (DEERS) you also need to update your information with DFAS.

Log on to *myPay*

We know that some of you only use *myPay* once a year to get your 1099-R during tax season. Then, when you do try to access your account, you discover that your password is expired, lost or forgotten. If this sounds like something that has happened to you, please update your password now, before the tax season starts. Waiting to update your password means longer wait times and potential delays in receiving your tax documents. The paragraphs below explain how to obtain a new password.

Expired *myPay* Passwords

myPay passwords expire every 150 days and you will automatically receive an email approximately 10 days before your password expires to remind you to update your password. To find out more about password requirements, go to:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDPa>

Reactivating *myPay* accounts

If your *myPay* account is in an inactive status because your password has expired, you can follow the simple steps below to reactivate your account.

1. Go to mypay.dfas.mil in your web browser on a computer or connected device (like a smartphone)
2. Click on the "Forgot or Need a Password?" link and enter your Login ID or Social Security Number
3. Choose to send a temporary password to your email or mailing address of record and then, when you receive the temporary password, go back to mypay.dfas.mil and log in to re-activate your account.

Please do not wait until January, February, or March to access your *myPay* account in order to be prepared for tax season.

The self-service options available through *myPay* simplify the management of military retirement and give you access to personalized information about your retirement account.

Check out the link below for helpful tips when navigating *myPay*:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUX>

Is Your Mailing Address Correct? Don't Miss Out on Your Tax Documents and Other Important Information!

When your pay is deposited directly to your bank account, you might not think it's important to have a current mailing address on file with DFAS. But if you don't update your mailing address when you move, or even if you're just wintering in a warmer climate, we won't be able to reach you if we need to send you important information about your pay account, like your tax documents.

Please keep in mind that even if you update your address in DEERS or with the VA, you also need to update your address with DFAS.

It's easy to update your mailing address with DFAS.

Update your mailing address in *myPay*

The quickest and easiest way to update your mailing address is to use *myPay*:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUUp>

If you have trouble logging in to *myPay*, use the troubleshooting instructions at the bottom of our homepage. See the link below. You can also call *myPay* customer care at 1-888-DFAS-411 (888-332-7411).

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUW>

1. After logging in, find the Correspondence Address link on the Main Menu
2. Enter the correct address
3. Save your changes and close the screen or use the link at the top of the page in the gray bar to return to the main menu
4. Your account will be updated in three to seven business days

Update your mailing address online using AskDFAS (retirees only)

If you are retiree, you can also use our convenient online form at AskDFAS to update your mailing address:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUG>

Simply fill out the required information in the form and answer the identity verification questions to submit your mailing address update.

Update your mailing address by mail or fax

Complete a Retiree Change of Address/State Tax Withholding Request, [DD Form 2866](#) and mail or fax it to DFAS.

For retirees:	For annuitants, beneficiaries and survivors
Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200 Fax: 800-469-6559	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300 Fax: 800-982-8459

Please keep in mind that it can take 30-60 days for us to process a paper form.

Have You Done a Paycheck Checkup this Year?

When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in late 2017, it made big changes to the way taxes are calculated for most taxpayers, including retirees. Among those changes, according to the IRS, are new tax rates and brackets, an increased standard deduction, the elimination of personal exemptions and limited or discontinued deductions. As a result, many taxpayers may need to raise or lower the amount of tax they pay in during the year.

For retirees who receive a monthly retirement paycheck, this may mean changing the amount of federal income tax you have withheld.

Use the IRS Withholding Calculator

The IRS has an online Withholding Calculator to help you determine how much tax you need to have withheld. Although it is primarily designed for employees who receive wages, this useful online tool can also be helpful when you receive retirement pay on a regular schedule.

You can use the IRS online calculator to estimate your total income, deductions and tax credits for 2018. The IRS recommends that you treat your retirement pay like income from a job by entering the gross amount of each payment, how often you receive a payment (monthly) and the amount of tax withheld so far this year. The IRS online calculator is at:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUJ>

To protect taxpayer privacy, the IRS emphasizes that the Withholding Calculator does not request any personally-identifiable information such as name, Social Security number, address or bank account numbers. Additionally, the agency says it does not save or record any of the information entered on the calculator.

To use the Withholding Calculator most effectively, you should have a copy of last year's tax return at hand. In addition, knowing or having a record of the total federal income tax withheld so far this year will also make the tool's results more accurate. You can find this information on your most recent RAS, which is easily available on *myPay*. After filling out the Withholding Calculator, the tool will recommend the number of allowances you should claim.

Changing Your Withholding

If the number is different from the number you claiming now, the IRS recommends changing your withholding. You can change your withholding in *myPay*, or fill out and mail an IRS Form W-4 for retirees and the IRS Form W-4P for annuitants. Be sure to use the 2018 forms if you are sending the form before January 1, 2019. The forms are available on the IRS website:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUe>

Claiming more allowances reduces the amount of tax taken out; claiming fewer allowances increases tax withholding. If claiming zero allowances still doesn't cover your expected tax bill, the tool will recommend that you request to withhold an additional flat-dollar amount from each payment.

Because of the limited amount of time left in 2018, some retirees may be unable to adequately cover their expected tax liability through withholding. In that case, IRS says another option is to make a quarterly estimated or additional tax payment directly to the IRS.

The IRS emphasizes that the U.S. tax system operates on a pay-as-you-go basis, so everyone is required, by law, to pay most of their tax liability during the year. Doing so, the IRS says, will help avoid a surprise year-end tax bill and in some instances, a penalty.

DFAS customer service representatives cannot provide tax advice or recommendations on tax withholding. Please consult a tax professional if you have questions about your taxes.

New, Faster Pay Account Notifications for *myPay* Users

If you use *myPay*, you may see something new in your email inbox beginning this fall. DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay will start sending some important notifications via SmartDoc direct to your email inbox, instead of you having to wait for a letter to arrive in the mail.

One email notification we will test this fall advises a retiree if an allotment was returned and consequently stopped (for example, due to incorrect bank information). By sending this notification via email, we can advise a retiree faster to an issue so the retiree can correct the problem with the allotment quickly.

The other notification that will be sent electronically this fall will advise a retiree when their pay is re-started after it was suspended.

The SmartDoc emails will not contain individual details, since we are prohibited from sending personally-identifiable information via email for privacy and security. However, when a retiree receives an email notification, they can log in to their *myPay* account to see the details of the allotment or pay. So, in the case of a stopped allotment, for example, a retiree can log in to *myPay* and promptly correct it.

For retirees who don't use *myPay*, these notification letters will continue to be sent by postal mail.

In addition to the two new email notifications described above, we will be adding more email notification options over time. So, having a *myPay* account with your current email address will pay off in shorter wait times for you to get updates on your account. Even if you've never used *myPay*, or don't access it on a regular basis, you can get the advantage of early notifications by adding your email address to your *myPay* account. *myPay* is available for all retirees and it's easy to get started or to update your information.

New Area on DFAS.mil Website for Members in the Gray Area

Retired and Annuitant Pay is working on increasing communications with members in the gray area. These are members of the reserves who have stopped drilling, but have not started receiving retired pay.

In many cases, this time period can last years, and members can miss important information. If you know any members in the gray area, please let them know that we have started a new website area within the "Retired Military & Annuitants" area on DFAS.mil that is designed just for them and we will be adding new content in the coming months.

The initial gray area webpage outlines the notification steps that survivors of a gray area reservist should take when he/she passes away before they start receiving retired pay. Survivors need to first contact the reservist's branch of service to notify them of a gray area reservist's passing because DFAS will not have a retired pay account established for a gray area reservist who isn't yet receiving pay.

The "Starting SBP for Gray Area Reservist Survivors" page is at:

<https://go.usa.gov/xPDUS>

2019 Pay Dates

To help you plan for 2019, below is a list of the days you should expect to receive your retired or annuitant pay.

Retired and annuitant pay is due on the first of the month. However, if the first falls on a weekend or holiday, retirees get paid on last business day of the prior month and annuitants get paid on the first business day of month. For example, payment to retirees for December 2018 will be paid on December 31, 2018. However, annuitants will be paid on January 2, 2019. Please see the chart for each month in 2019.

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
December 2018	December 31, 2018	January 2, 2019
January 2019	February 1, 2019	February 1, 2019
February 2019	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2019
March 2019	April 1, 2019	April 1, 2019
April 2019	May 1, 2019	May 1, 2019
May 2019	May 31, 2019	June 3, 2019
June 2019	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2019
July 2019	August 1, 2019	August 1, 2019
August 2019	August 30, 2019	September 3, 2019
September 2019	October 1, 2019	October 1, 2019
October 2019	November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
November 2019	November 29, 2019	December 2, 2019
December 2019	December 31, 2019	January 2, 2020

Retiree Dental and Vision Plan Changes Coming for 2019

What is happening?

On **December 31, 2018**, the Defense Health Agency's TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), administered by Delta Dental, will end. However, individuals currently enrolled in or eligible for TRDP **will have the opportunity to enroll** in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)* during the Federal Benefits Open Season from November 12 through December 10, 2018.

*As directed in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017

What is FEDVIP?

FEDVIP is a voluntary, enrollee-pays-all dental and vision program that offers eligible participants a choice between 10 dental and four vision carriers (with most plans offering both high and standard options). In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for the TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage and, if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, are also eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage, beginning in 2019. In addition, family members of active duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage.

How to prepare for the transition

1. Use the eligibility tool to determine if you are [eligible](#) for FEDVIP:
2. View 2018 FEDVIP plans and premiums** to become familiar with the new program, and compare the [2018 plans and rates](#) (FEDVIP premiums are based on retiree's residential zip code).
**The current 2018 plans and premiums are for reference only. Plan details and premium rates for the 2019 plan year will be available in October of 2018.
3. Register for a live [webinar](#), which provides an overview of the TRDP-to-FEDVIP transition.
4. Stay informed by signing up to [receive updates](#) from the Defense Health Agency.

Don't miss the opportunity to enroll!

The opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP will be during the next **Federal Benefits Open Season**, which runs from **November 12 through December 10, 2018**, with coverage effective January 1, 2019.

If you are currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, **you will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019**. You must enroll during open season.

To learn more about the transition, go to the [FAQ](#) section of tricare.benefeds.com.

Army Emergency Relief Releases 2017 Annual Report

By Andrew Pike

For 76 years, Army Emergency Relief has been a trusted resource to help soldiers, both active and retired, who are dealing with financial challenges. In 2017 AER provided more than \$15 million to retired soldiers, assisting with rent, mortgages, home repairs, vehicle replacement, utilities, and the list goes on; this is a portion of the \$70 million AER provided in assistance across the entire Army Team.

AER invites you to see what your donations have accomplished. The 2017 Annual Report, available on the website at the link below, details how your support continues to positively impact the lives of thousands of active duty and retired Soldiers and their Families. During this holiday season, join AER in continuing our *Legacy of Caring*.

[Click here](#) to read the 2017 Annual Report.

Contact Us

DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay Website

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

DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay Mailing Addresses

Retirees:

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

Annuitants:

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

DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay Phone and Fax Numbers

Phone:

Toll-free: 800-321-1080
Local: 216-522-5955
DSN: 580-5955

Retired Pay Fax:

800-469-6559

Annuitant/Survivor Pay Fax:

800-982-8459

myPay

mypay.dfas.mil

Phone: 888-332-7411

DFAS on Facebook

facebook.com/DefenseFinanceandAccountingService

DFAS on YouTube

youtube.com/user/WePayDoD