

OFFUTT UPDATE – AUGUST 2019

A Publication of the Offutt Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office

Phone: 402-294-4566/2590 E-mail: 55MSG.CVR@US.AF.MIL

Our mission is to provide information, services and programs to military retirees of all ranks and services, as well as family members and surviving spouses of retired service members residing in regions of Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa.

Greetings Offutt Retirees and friends:

Welcome to our first monthly edition of the Offutt Update. I will do my best to feature more of the activities that are right here in the Offutt area in each issue.

We are **your** office and want to be of help to you in any way we can. Please reach out to us. We are all volunteers here at the office. We are here Monday-Friday 0900-1300. Call us (402) 294-2590/4566 or send us an email 55MSG.CVR@us.af.mil.

We are located in the same building as the MPF, I.D. Card Section. Building 49, room 115. The building is across from the Parade Ground. You will find us by coming into the building, entering the first door to the left, and then the first office on the left.

We are working on our 50th Anniversary Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). It is going to be on **Saturday** instead of Sunday. If there is an organization you would like to have present at Appreciation Day please let us know.

**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER
0900 – 1300**

Debbi Buike, Director
Deborah.buike@us.af.mil

ROAD CLOSURES, CHANGES AND CONSTRUCTION



ROAD CLOSED - Beginning July 29, 2019 - for approximately three weeks, Nelson Dr. will be closed between SAC Blvd. and Airman Dr. for the installation of new security equipment. All traffic will be diverted through the now closed SAC Blvd. and onto Peacekeeper Dr.



LANE CLOSURES - Beginning July 29, 2019 and lasting approximately 4-weeks, the outbound lanes of the Kenney (Flag) Gate will have intermittent lane closures as 55 Civil Engineer Squadron's pavement crews repair potholes. Please slowdown in the area and follow posted traffic control signs and devices.



M.U.D. CONSTRUCTION - The eastern portion of the 36th and Capehart intersection will be closed, creating a "T" intersection instead of the current 4-way stop.

Capehart road, east of the intersection will be closed from 33rd to 36th street to through traffic.

Project is anticipated to being complete in 4 weeks, but as we all know, construction never goes as smoothly as anticipated, so it's being announced as a 6-8 week project.

ON AND AROUND OFFUTT AFB

OFFUTT TICKETS AND TRAVEL

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, & Sat
Closed: Wed, Sun and Holidays
Phone (402) 294-4049
All Prices are subject to change

Amazing Pizza Machine Food and Fun \$17
90mins. Unlimited \$26

Bellevue Little Theater Tickets \$18
Catch Me If You Can – Sep 13-15, Sep 20-22, Sep 27-29

CenturyLink Center
WWE Live Aug 18 @ 7:00 p.m. \$25-\$118
River City Rodeo Sept 27 & 28 @ 7:30 pm \$21-\$38

COCO Keys Gen. Admission – Good for Any Day
\$9

Fontenelle Forest Individual Membership \$42, Dual
Membership \$52, Household Membership \$62
Plus one \$20

FUN PLEX 2019 Daily Ticket (Child Under 54
Inches) \$23 Adult / \$16 Child

Omaha Community Playhouse 2019/2020
Annie Sep. 21st \$30 Adult/ \$20 Student
Rocky Horror Oct. 19th \$30 Adult/ \$20 Student
Christmas Carol Dec. 14 & 15th \$32 Adult/ \$18
Student

Omaha Stormchasers Baseball Box Seat Voucher
Good for One Game \$11 blackout dates: 7/4, 7/26 and 7/27

Omaha Urban Air Trampoline Park
Ultimate Attractions \$22, Deluxe Attractions \$17,
Basic Attractions \$11

Orpheum 2019-2020
STOMP Feb 28, 2020 @ 7:30 pm \$49 ages 2 and
up

Lion King May 2 & 9, 2020 \$112/\$90 ages 2+
Les Miserables Jan 18@7:30 pm \$87/\$106

Papio Fun Park
Cannot be redeemed for Papio Formal Birthday Parties.
2 Activity Wristband \$8.50 Extreme Wristband
\$16.50

SAC Museum Membership 1 yr Family \$50

JUST A REMINDER - MPF HOURS:

Retirees **must** have an appointment Tuesday and Thursday. Just visit <https://www.offutt55fss.com/military-personnel-flight/> to schedule an appointment. If you do not have access to a computer, their phone number is (402) 294-5019

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Third Thursday of the month 1 - 3:30 p.m.
The Military Personnel Flight office (MPF) is located across from the Officer's housing around the parade ground at 105 Washington Square, Building 49, Suite 100.

TWO PAINTINGS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

Wednesday, August 28 at the Warhawk Community Center in the Raiders Lounge. The Raiders Lounge opens at 5pm. You must be seated and ready to paint by 6pm. Cost is \$35 per person.

Paint with a partner! Our professional instructor will guide you through creating the paintings below on 11x14 canvases.



When you're done, the 2 paintings will come together to complete the scene. Each \$35.00 ticket includes a 2-hour guided painting lesson and 1 glass of wine. All paint, brushes, canvases, and other supplies will be provided.

Additional wine, beer, cocktails, and snack bar food will be available to purchase. Must be at least 21 years old to consume alcohol. Guests under 21 will receive a free non-alcoholic drink with purchase of a ticket.

Please call 402-294-9558 for questions about the event.

LOCAL VA SEEKS FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System senior leadership will hold a Veterans' Town Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, at the American Legion club in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The American Legion Club is located 716 South 4th Street in Council Bluffs.

Among the topics to be discussed are the implementation of the VA's new Mission Act, an infrastructure update on VA NWI's various hospitals and clinics, the organization's ongoing whole health initiatives and its newly implemented Veterans Transportation Service.

The VA town hall is designed to promote open and honest feedback from Veterans, their family members and other beneficiaries. Senior leadership and other subject-matter experts from the local VA health system will be present to improve communication with and hear directly from Veterans and their families. VA also welcomes input from Congressional stakeholders, Veteran Service Organizations, non-governmental organizations and other community partners at the meeting.

Following the town hall, representatives from various VA programs will be available for those Veterans not currently enrolled in the VA health care system.

"Caring for Veterans is a calling, and our first commitment is to provide Veterans and their families the timely, quality care and benefits they have earned and deserve through their service to our nation," said B. Don Burman, director of VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. "Our town hall meetings are designed to open new lines of communications with our Veterans, the families and their caregivers so that we can provide them that care. That's why we are encouraging our Veterans and their families and friends to attend this important meeting."

For more information, contact Kevin Hynes, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System public affairs officer, at (402) 995-4719.

VETERANS CAN SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS ONLINE

July 17, 2019, www.myhealth.va.gov

Next time you need to schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment, keep in mind that you can do it through My HealtheVet.

What does this mean for you?

If you have VA health care benefits, you can schedule, reschedule, cancel, and request some of your VA health appointments online if:

- ❖ You have one of these two types of free VA accounts: My HealtheVet Premium Account or DS Logon Premium Account.
- ❖ You are scheduling your appointment at a VA medical facility that accepts online scheduling. Check to see if your VA Medical Center offers online scheduling; most do.

What types of appointments can I schedule online?

- ❖ You can schedule a primary care appointment at a participating VA facility where you have had a primary care appointment in the last two years.
- ❖ You may also be able to schedule specialty appointments, such as outpatient mental health, optometry, and audiology, at participating facilities.



**OMAHA FISHER HOUSE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

"A home away from home"
for families and caregivers of ill and injured
military Service Members and Veterans

August 7, 2019 at 11 a.m.

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
4101 Woolworth Avenue, Omaha, NE

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

MEDICS ARE UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

By Charles J. Haymond, 55th Wing Public Affairs

The mighty medics of the 55th Medical Group welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony July 11, 2019.

Col. Julie Ostrand took over command of the 55th MDG from Col. Judy Stoltmann during the time-honored military ceremony inside the 557th Weather Wing auditorium.

Col. Gavin Marks, 55th Wing commander, presided over the ceremony. Marks thanked Stoltmann for the innovations that have happened over the two years she was in command at the Erhling Berquist Clinic.

“In the medical business, patient care is really where the rubber meets the road,” said Marks. “Whether we are talking about how under her leadership they erected a pediatric walk-in clinic, or how she enabled the embedding of mental health technicians into most stressed and operationally stretched units rapidly enabling greater access to mental health services. She also launched direct access clinics, slashing hundreds of thousands of dollars of cost in urgent care visits by our Airmen and their families.”

During the first year of Stoltmann’s command, the 55th MDG received 14 Air Combat Command, four Air Force-level awards and more throughout her time here.

Stoltmann also declared her appreciation for how the medical group accomplished many goals during her time here and praised the support she received during her tenure as commander.

“The men and women of the 55th Medical Group are driven,” Stoltmann said. “They are driven to provide the highest quality health care. They are driven to constantly improve and they are driven to excel.”

Stoltmann’s final message to the mighty medics could be summed up in one word, continue.

“Continue to be proud professionals, continue to strive to improve and continue to take care of yourselves and each other”, Stoltmann said. “Don’t ever forget how important each and every one of you is to the mission, to the wing and to the Air Force.”

Now the 55th MDG is transitioning from one era to another under the command of Col. Julie Ostrand. She is coming in from Minot AFB, North Dakota, where she served as the 5th Medical Group commander.

“She comes to us with significant depth and breadth of experience coupled with significant command savvy and fresh perspective for the 55th Wing,” Marks said. “She has background in family medicine, women’s health, surgical services, has been OB-GYN flight commander and two-time Medical Operations Squadron commander, and now coming from Minot, Air Force Base, where she was the Medical Group commander that is pretty impressive.”

55TH MSG IS UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

By Charles Haymond, 55th Wing Public Affairs

Team Offutt welcomed a new 55th Mission Support Group commander during a change of command ceremony July 24, 2019.

Col. W.R. Alan Dayton took over command of the 55th MSG from Col. J. David Norton who has served in the position since 2017.

Col. Gavin Marks, 55th Wing commander, gave opening remarks declaring the importance of a leader and the massive responsibilities they carry.

“Command is not a prize; it doesn’t work that way,” Marks said. “Rather, command is a cherished honor and privilege. It is one that is accepted soberly, and executed faithfully, because those who are given the opportunity to command do so knowing the true gravity of the responsibilities they are inheriting.”

During his speech, Marks shared a conversation from a recent phone call he had with the outgoing commander. Norton was asked what he would miss about Offutt AFB.

“I’m not surprised by what he said he would miss; the 55th MSG team, Team Offutt, and in the great global community that we have,” Marks said. “That is the type of leader Norton is; selfless, humble, and a true servant leader.”

Marks’ final message about Norton also allowed us to know he said to Norton’s new boss.

“He is getting a true superstar,” Marks said. “Someone who is the textbook definition of an inspired leader, someone who will mow down obstacles in his path and someone who brings results like only a few leaders can.”

Norton said he and his family are looking forward to what his next assignment and the new journey will bring them. Before departing, he had some remarks for his old command.

“For me this occasion is bittersweet, emphasis on the word bitter,” Norton said. “While my family and I look forward to the next adventure, this is a difficult place to be leaving for many reasons but above all, as you heard from Col. Marks, I will very dearly miss the people here.

While dealing with this humbling experience, Dayton is ready to take charge of the 55th MSG and continue to provide service to Team Offutt.

“(Being chosen was) very humbling,” Dayton said. “You have my loyalty and I pledge to carry on this group’s legacy of service.”

FACILITY RENOVATION, MOLD REMEDIATION BEGINS AT OFFUTT

*By Charles J. Haymond, 55th Wing Public Affairs
Published June 18, 2019*

Using the Air Force Contract Augmentation Program, Offutt officials hired a vendor to help repair base facilities impacted by the mid-March flooding.

AFCAP is a rapid response office and contracting tool for use by U.S. Government entities needing urgent assistance.

The first facility that AFCAP focused on is the Bennie L. Davis Maintenance Facility, which is the primary maintenance facility maintaining combat-ready aircraft, equipment and munitions for the 55th Wing's mission.

"AFCAP is a tremendous tool that has allowed us to rapidly deploy a clean-up and restoration capability that will ultimately help restore Offutt's ability to effectively generate combat power," said Lt. Col. Hayes Weidman, 55th Contracting Squadron commander.

The company hired to make the repair was responsible for bringing in safety and environmental experts to assess, plan and start clearing the building.

Once the maintenance facility was cleared, the contractors went into the powerless building and started cleaning up office areas and aircraft docks and replacing sheet rock.

Most of the work was the removal of wet contaminated material. The team of contractors removed items from damaged furniture and carpet to drywall and wood.

"Currently the main safety concerns are contaminated work spaces from flood water residue and various other hazards caused by long-term flood damage" said Quentin Harvey, DynCorp program director.

The beginning stages of the mold and biohazard remediation needed in each building has begun in several facilities around base.

Next, they will begin to assess the cost of the work required to restore facilities in conjunction with the 55th Civil Engineering Squadron.

"While the contractors won't be replacing furniture and equipment, they are responsible for returning base facilities impacted by the flood to pre-flood conditions," Weidman said.

MILITARY NEWS

COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2016

By 55th Wing Legal Office Published July 26, 2019

On Dec. 16, 2016, the president signed into law the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016, which provides eligible veterans the right to seek a refund for taxes they may have paid on Disability Severance Pay.

Most veterans who claimed the disability severance payment as income and received a one-time, lump-sum, payment when they separated from military service are entitled to a refund. The payment must have been received after Jan. 17, 1991, and before Jan. 1, 2017. Eligible veterans should have received a mailed notice from the Department of Defense in July 2018 explaining how to claim their tax refunds.

The IRS is reminding veterans who received disability severance payments after 1991, and claimed it as income, that time may be running out to claim their refund. The time-frame for claiming these tax refunds is limited to the later of:

- ✓ One year from the date of the DOD notice
- ✓ Three years after the due date for filing the original return for the year the disability severance payment was made
- ✓ Two years after tax was paid for the year the disability severance payment was made

If they received a notice (letters 6060-A and 6060-D) and have not already filed an amended tax return, veterans should take action soon to claim a refund or a credit of the overpayment attributable to the disability severance payment.

Veterans who did not receive the notice from the DOD, and received a disability severance payment after Jan. 17, 1991 that was reported as taxable income, can still file a claim. They must include the necessary documentation to file with their Form 1040X. Veterans should contact the National Archives, National Personnel Records Center, or the Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain the required documentation for submission with their Form 1040X.

The IRS has posted detailed information on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). Veterans with questions about claiming a tax refund for disability severance payment can call the IRS toll free at (833) 558-5245 ext. 378 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/combat-injured-veterans-tax-fairness-act-claim-information-available>.

USSTRATCOM DIRECTOR OF JOINT EXERCISES, TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS RETIRES AFTER NEARLY A HALF CENTURY OF DEDICATED SERVICE

By U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs

After almost half a century of combined military and federal service, Pat McVay, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) director of joint exercises, training and assessments (J7), and a Senior Executive Service member for the Department of the Air Force celebrated his retirement July 26, 2019, during a retirement ceremony in Bellevue, Nebraska.

McVay, a native of South Dakota said that although USSTRATCOM has been a major part of my adult life he is looking forward to retirement.

“It feels good to be retiring and I’m looking forward to it,” said McVay. “I’ve enjoyed the discipline, the sense of mission, and the common purpose—I found that in SAC. I’ve continued that in STRATCOM. I’ve just always enjoyed that; I love this command.”

U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of USSTRATCOM, presided over the retirement ceremony and reflected on McVay’s contributions to the command.

“We are here to say good bye to a legend of STRATCOM,” said Hyten during McVay’s retirement ceremony. “What an amazing human being, he came here and he has left his mark.”

McVay also reflected on his long history with Strategic Air Command and USSTRATCOM.

“I came to Strategic Air Command back in 1982 as a KC-135 pilot at Ellsworth Air Force Base and then came here to SAC headquarters,” McVay said. “I was on alert the day we stood down SAC alert back in 1992, so, I’ve been doing this a long time.

As the director of J7, McVay led more than 2,200 training and exercise events and said the command has made great strides in the joint exercise world.

“I think the biggest change in the joint exercise world is the move toward the globally integrated exercises and the linkage of exercises,” McVay said. “We have turned the corner where everybody realizes that if we are in a conflict with a near-peer adversary it’s going to be a global fight and we need to train and exercise that way.

“We have been pushing that from STRATCOM for a long time and it’s finally coming to pass, he said”. “I think that’s my biggest accomplishment as STRATCOM J7.”

As McVay reflects on his 46-year career with the Department of Defense, he says he would not change a thing.

“I don’t know if I would have done anything differently because I never really had an endgame in sight,” said McVay. “It was just work hard, support the command, follow the commander’s priorities, and execute the mission the best way I knew how — and luckily good things happened.”

McVay also had some parting advice for the men and women of USSTRATCOM.

“Embrace the commander’s priorities,” said McVay. “Remember that this is not just a staff job. We are a global warfighting command, and you need to come to work every day with that mentality.

“Above all, provide strategic deterrence and work hard every day — remember that mission,” he said. “If everybody does that, the command will be successful and you’ll enjoy your job and make a difference.”

McVay said it feels good to be retiring because he will have more time to spend with his family, play golf and relax as he retires in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He noted that retirement is bittersweet.

“Just like my military career, you don’t remember the bad days; you don’t remember the short-notice deployments,” said McVay. “You remember the experiences you had with the people, and that’s what I’ll remember.”

As a military leader McVay used to tell people that they will just know when it’s time to retire.

“I grew up in South Dakota, my mother always said that I left home in 1973 and I never came home again,” said McVay. “I think it’s time to go home.”

U.S. SERVICEMEN KILLED DURING BATTLE OF TARAWA TO BE RETURNED TO UNITED STATES

*Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (dpaa.mil)
July 17, 2019*

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today the remains of at least 22 servicemen, killed during the battle of Tarawa in World War II, are being returned to the United States in an Honorable Carry Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 17, 2019.

The Battle for Tarawa was part of a larger U.S. invasion (Operation GALVANIC) to capture Japanese-held territory within the Gilbert Islands. The operation commenced on November 20, 1943, with simultaneous attacks at Betio Island (within the Tarawa Atoll) and Makin Island (more than 100 miles north of Tarawa Atoll). While lighter Japanese defenses at Makin Island meant fewer losses for U.S. forces, firmly entrenched Japanese defenders on Betio Island turned the fight for Tarawa Atoll into a costly 76-hour battle.

Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Servicemen killed in action were buried where they fell, or placed in large trench burials constructed during and after the battle. These graves were typically marked with improvised markers, such as crosses made from sticks, or an up-turned rifle. Grave sites ranged in size from single isolated burials to large trench burials of more than 100 individuals.

Postwar Graves Registration recovery efforts were complicated by incomplete record keeping and by the alterations to the cemeteries shortly after the battle. The locations of multiple cemeteries were lost. The alterations to other cemeteries resulted in the relocation of grave markers without relocating the remains beneath. These sites became known as memorial graves. As a result, many of the Tarawa dead were not recovered.

"Today we welcome home more than 20 American servicemen still unaccounted for from the battle of Tarawa during World War II," said Acting Secretary of Defense Richard V. Spencer. "We do not forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and it is our duty and obligation to return our missing home to their families and the nation. Thank you to everyone who took part in this repatriation."

DPAA is grateful to History Flight, Inc. for their continued partnership and dedicated support.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,692 service members still unaccounted for from World War II, of which approximately 30,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable.

MILITARY WORKING DOGS STAMP THEIR PLACE IN HISTORY

*By L. Cunningham, 55th Wing Public Affairs
Published August 02, 2019*

The Military Working Dog stamp was unveiled as the U.S. Postal Service's newest stamp during the American Philatelic Society's 133rd annual convention Aug. 1, 2019, at the Catholic Health Initiatives Health Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

"It is my honor to help dedicate the Military Working Dog's Forever Stamp," said David C. Williams, Postal Service Board of Governors vice chairman. "As a military veteran and former law enforcement officer, I have the greatest appreciation for service dogs and their vital, lifesaving missions."

The stamp honors dogs who have served in the U.S. armed forces since the U.S. Army created the War Dog Program K-9 Corps and began training man's best friend in March 1942.

"Military working dogs give their entire lives to the military. They are born into the program, work in it all their life, and many die in it from old age, illness, or injury before they can retire," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Reeves, 55th Security Forces Squadron MWD handler. "Recognizing their heroic acts is important, as it helps spread awareness about the important role they play in all military operations, and it's the least we can do for these animals giving their whole life to the military."

Offutt Air Force Base has six working dogs that on a daily basis are groomed, exercised, trained and conduct patrols with their handlers. With occasional training conducted alongside local law enforcement and other government agencies.

"Whether they are training or in a real world situation, to the dog, they are just playing their master's game, but in reality, they are fulfilling a role no machine can," said Staff Sgt. Blake Radey, 55th SFS MWD handler. "They are an analog force in a digital age and will continue to lead the way into the future."

The mission of MWDs is to deter and detect. Their duties place them in harm's way every day. They are trained in narcotics, explosives and intruder detection. Whether home or deployed, patrolling the base for intruders or scanning the area for explosives, these teams are getting the job done.

"Not just any canine can be molded into a military working dog. It takes a rare breed of canine to succeed in this special mission set," said Lt. Col. Michael Cheatham, 55th SFS commander. "Despite extensive efforts to carefully select the best breeds with the strongest pedigrees from around the world, just over 50% of canines successfully pass the Department of Defense Military Working Dogs Training Course."

During World War I, dogs started out as mascots, sentries, couriers, guard dogs and even Red Cross dogs. Throughout history, some dogs have become distinguished in combat beside their human companions. In World War II, a dog named Chips captured 14 Italian soldiers in one day. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star Medal and even the Purple Heart, but the medals were later rescinded due to policy preventing commendation of animals.

"Military working dogs do not receive any post-service benefits like service members and must rely on non-profit organizations and owner or handler payment to fund their healthcare and medications once they retire," said Staff Sgt. Seth Kenny, 55th SFS MWD trainer. "A dog doesn't value a medal on the mantle, a dog values being pain free when they try to walk up the stairs after spending 90% of their life truly giving their all without a second thought."

TIME FOR A RETIRED PAY ACCOUNT CHECKUP

DFAS.MIL June 20, 2019

It's important to regularly review and update your retired pay account. Keeping your account current will ensure that we can get in touch with you if there is information you need to know about your retired pay and help make sure that outdated information doesn't cause difficulties for you or your loved ones down the road.

Use this handy roadmap to perform a retired pay checkup at least once a year.

Is your mailing address current?

If you've moved and haven't told us, we won't know how to reach you. Log in to your myPay account and check your "Correspondence Address" under "Pay Changes" on the side menu as part of your annual account check-up:

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

Do you have a current email address in myPay?

Email is our easiest and fastest way to communicate with our members. If we have your email address, you will hear news faster. Take a minute right now and check to make sure your email address(es) are current. At the top of your myPay account menu, select "Personal Settings" and then in the side menu on the left, select "Email Address" to view the email address(es) you have on file with us. Make sure you indicate the primary email address you want us to use, and check the box to indicate if the address is still valid. Delete any old email addresses you no longer use.

Is your federal and state income tax withholding correct?

If your income changes, you move to another state, or there are changes in the tax laws, you should look at the federal or state income tax withholding information we have in your account. Don't wait until tax season to discover your withholding is incorrect!

You can verify and update your tax withholding information yourself in myPay. Click on "Federal Withholding" or "State Withholding" under "Pay Changes" in the menu on the left to see if your withholding is correct.

Are your allotments correct?

Review your allotments at least once a year. Look under "Pay Changes" for "Allotments" in the menu on the left side of your myPay account. Check each allotment and the allotment amounts. Make sure each allotment is current and the amount is correct.

Please keep in mind that some allotments cannot be changed using myPay. Some of the common allotments that cannot be changed using myPay include FEDVIP, Tricare and NSGLI. If you have a question about any allotments that you cannot change on myPay, please contact that company or organization directly.

Have there been changes in your family?

If you get married, lose a spouse, or have a child, the change can affect your account. You may need to change your income tax withholdings or notify us to change your Survivor Benefit Plan information. If there have been any changes in your family, please send us a copy of the official documentation (marriage license, divorce decree, death certificate or birth certificate), as well as a request for how you want us to update your account.

Always notify DFAS as soon as possible about a major life change.

You can fax your documents to 1-800-469-6559

Or mail them to DFAS, 8899 E 56th Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200.

Make sure your Social Security Number is clearly visible on each document so we can identify your account to update it.

Is your Arrears of Pay beneficiary correct?

Who did you choose as a beneficiary for any arrears of retired pay that may be due when you pass away? Make sure your designation is current and confirm that your beneficiary's address is up to date. You can check this information by clicking on the "Beneficiary for Arrears" link under "Pay Changes" in the menu on the left side of your account in myPay. You can make changes to your designation and update their address information through myPay

Is your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and beneficiary(ies) correct?

Your Retiree Account Statement (RAS), available in myPay, has a lot of information on it about your pay, deductions, taxes and SBP. The SBP section has five lines on it for members who participate in SBP. The most important for you to check: your type of coverage, and date of birth of your spouse beneficiary (if applicable). See the article in this issue, *Checking Your SBP Coverage on Your Retiree Account Statement*, for more details on how to verify your SBP coverage using your RAS.

DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay Phone and Fax Numbers

Phone: Toll-free: 800-321-1080