

Goodfellow Retiree Newsletter

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Acknowledgement

Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources, newsletters received by the RAO and from other military sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. Absolutely no commercial gain is derived from this publication. Our appreciation is extended to those agencies and newsletter sources. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of any agency of the U.S. Government.

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Wing Commander's Welcome Note

Welcome to the first edition of our military retiree newsletter! My goal is to offer the best services authorized to you and your beneficiaries. I encourage you to take full advantage of the many benefits available on Goodfellow AFB.

This newsletter contains a synopsis of what Goodfellow provides our retirees. Please take your time reviewing these articles to see what best suits your needs, both today and in the future. I'm certain you will find our staff is more than happy to assist you with any matters requiring attention.

To assure constant support of all retirees, we are looking for volunteers to aid in staffing the Retiree Activities Office (RAO). The goal is to have personnel available from 0900-1500 each business day. If you or someone you know is able to volunteer, please contact the RAO to coordinate a convenient time.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact the RAO Director, J. Robert Adams, Col, USAF (Ret) at 325-654-4462 or via email at 17TRW.CVR.RetireesActivity@us.af.mil.

Thank you for your service,

Col Kimberlee P. Joos
17th Training Wing Commander

New Goodfellow Retiree Activities Office (RAO) Director

Greetings fellow retirees, veterans, spouses, widows and widowers, dependents and beneficiaries.

First and foremost, thank you for your service to our great nation and for your exemplary contributions toward our country's history & future.

I want to introduce myself as your new RAO Director and tell you a little bit about my plans for serving. I am proud and honored to have this opportunity to serve in the RAO – I hope to do the best job I can as your RAO Director.

Second, and equally important, this is your RAO and thus your input – the voice of the customer – and feedback from retirees, veterans and their dependents will help drive the direction and ultimate success of the RAO programs.

Third, and extremely critical to the program; even though we are located on Goodfellow AFB and aligned under the 17 TRW wing leadership, the Goodfellow RAO is for the entire military retiree and veteran community – all services, all ranks - as well as their dependents. It is important to reach out to you now to introduce myself, tell you some of the upcoming things we are working on and to get know your issues. *(continued on pg. 2, in the yellow column)*

New RAO Director, cont. from pg. 1

- Please look forward to an updated and expanded RAO page at the Goodfellow AFB website. We are striving to provide as much information as possible to assist you in searching for answers to your questions or problems.
- We are continuing our efforts to obtain correct updated email contact information for all Goodfellow military retirees so we can better communicate with you. If you have not already done so, please email us (17TRW.CVR.RetireesActivity@us.af.mil) so we can ensure uninterrupted contact.
- Please share this with your friends. We want to get the word out to retirees, spouses, widows and widowers, and veterans of **all** services that the Goodfellow RAO is here to assist in answering any of your questions or concerns.
- Don't hesitate to share information, ask questions, or comment on the information and articles posted via the RAO email address listed above.

Respectfully yours,
Robert

What is the RAO?

The ultimate focus of the RAO is to support, advance and unify the retired, active-duty military, veteran, and local communities.

The RAO mission is to act as an interface between the active duty and retired communities, to keep you updated on matters which relate to your status as a military retiree, to provide information and services as necessary or appropriate and to represent retired members.

The RAO and our volunteers are here to serve you and your needs to the best of our ability.

Our reach can be global, but our main focus is on the Goodfellow community and any other localities within the Goodfellow servicing area.

The RAO is operated solely by volunteers to provide information and assistance for all local area and visiting military retirees, family members, and surviving spouses of retirees.

We want to know what your concerns are. . .

- What are your biggest concerns regarding your military retirement?
- What information would you like to see included on the webpage?
- On what info (and how often) would you like to receive email updates or notifications?
- We are planning the 2015 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) this next October. What information, booths, and/or activities do you want to see at the RAD?
- Do you have any additional feedback/suggestions for improvement to the RAO program?

Send us your comments or questions:

17TRW.CVR.RetireesActivity@us.af.mil

“You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old.” ~ George Burns

“Volunteers don't just do the work ~ they make it work.” ~ Carol Pettit

“We are young only once, after that we need some other excuse.” ~ Unknown

Our Mission:

“Provide and disseminate information services to retirees and surviving dependents in order to support, advance and unify the retired and active military communities.”

Volunteering is a rewarding experience. There are many programs and activities within our military community that could not exist were it not for the volunteers doing the work to make things happen.

Be a Volunteer RAO Counselor ...

If you have been looking for a fun, creative and rewarding way to stay connected to the Goodfellow military community, then volunteering is the answer. At the Goodfellow RAO, you can join our volunteer staff as a counselor. Hands-on training will be provided and you will work with a great team of volunteers who are military retirees and spouses dedicating their time, skills, talents, and wisdom towards helping the military community.

For more information, contact the RAO at 325-654-4462 or 17TRW.CVR.RetireesActivity@us.af.mil

“Assisting retired military individuals, family members, and other veterans with programs and services available to them as their Rightful Benefits”

Military Retirees and Annuitants of Military Retirees

Do you have Pay Issues??



has gotten easier to use! Password requirements have been reduced from 15 to 9 characters. Once you have established a password, it will remain current for up to 150 days. Update your account today!

For more information on creating a myPay password, check out <http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/password.html>. The link will offer you detailed instructions and video support. Having problems creating your password? Check out <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/mypayinfo/tipsandtricks.html> for additional help.

Become a myPay user today!

Your monthly electronic Retiree Account Statement (eRAS) is now available on myPay. Click the link below to log in and access your eRAS.

[https://
mypay.dfas.mil](https://mypay.dfas.mil)

While you're logged in to your account, please also take a few moments to verify all your contact information is correct. The key to receiving your military retired pay and other important information in a timely and efficient manner is to make sure that both your mailing address and email address on file are up to date.

If you are a new retiree, it may be 30-60 days before your eRAS is available in myPay.

NEED HELP PICKING UP YOUR ELECTRONIC ACCOUNT STATEMENT?

After you log in to myPay, you will be taken to a menu from which you can reach your eRAS.

If the Web address above is not highlighted, follow these steps:

1. Open a Web browser window.
2. Copy and paste the entire Web address into the location or address bar of the browser.
3. Press enter.



TROUBLE LOGGING INTO MYPAY?

Visit www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary for instructions on starting a myPay account, requesting a login ID or requesting a temporary password.



HELP US SPREAD THE WORD.

The eRAS is only available on myPay. Please share this news with your fellow military retirees who may not have myPay accounts.

Report retiree death as soon as possible to defense pay service

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) officials advise reporting the death of a retiree as soon as possible by calling 800-321-1080, or completing a Notification of Death Fast Form on the DFAS website. This will help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving beneficiaries, family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned military retirement payments. Eligibility for military retired pay ends with the death of the retiree; therefore, if a retired pay payment was issued for the month in which the retiree died, the bank will be notified to return the payment upon notification of death. The beneficiary of the arrears of pay may be due a prorated amount for the month of death. The caller reporting the death will need the retiree's name, Social Security number and date of death.

Casualty services branch offers reporting assistance

The Air Force Personnel Center Casualty Services Branch staff, recognizing that the death of a loved one is a stressful time, offers a toll-free number to ensure reporting a death does not add more stress to the situation.

By calling 877-353-6807, the caller only has to enter a ZIP code to be connected to the nearest Air Force Casualty Assistance Office.

Families residing at overseas locations may report the death through any military installation, U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The agency should assist families in forwarding casualty information to the AFPC Casualty Services Branch.

Force Support Squadron Areas of Interest/Activities available to Military Retirees:

Military Personnel Section (bldg. 430)

Identification Card

325-654-1801

Mon - Wed & Fri,

0800 - 1600

Thurs, 0800 - 1200

Community Center/Club

(bldg. 723) 325-654-5327

Mon - Sat, 1030 - 1330

& 1600 - 1900

Gryphon Deli

Mon - Fri, 1100 - 1300

Sat, 1900 - 2130

Outdoor Rec/Fam Camp

(bldg.736, off base)

325-944-1012

Consolidated Learning Center (bldg. 316)

Library

325-654-3232

Mon - Thurs,

1000 - 2000

Fri, 1000 - 1700

Sat - Sun, 1100 - 1500

Education Center

325-654-3314

Mon, 0930 - 1600

Tues - Fri, 0730 - 1600

Mathis Fitness Center

(bldg. 140) 325-654-3242

Mon - Fri, 0430 - 2200

Sat, 0430 - 2000

Sun/Holidays

1000 - 1800

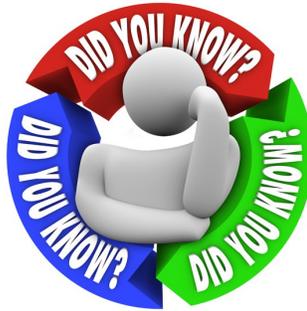
Equal Opportunity

255 Ft Lancaster Ave,
Goodfellow AFB.

654-3898/4690/4293

Goodfellow AFB Volunteer Program

The Goodfellow AFB Volunteer Program provides a multitude of volunteer opportunities for all Team Goodfellow members, to include retired military and civilians from all branches, and their family members. The base receives over a hundred requests annually from community non-profit organizations for volunteer assistance in either their ongoing, day-to-day missions or special events they hold during the year. Requests range from a need for 2 to 200 volunteers and are received from the well-known non-profit organizations, such as American Cancer Society, to others that may not come to mind as quickly such as local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as schools and churches.



Did you know there are a multitude of volunteer opportunities on base as well? The Airman and Family Readiness Center, Base Chapel, Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office, and Youth Programs, just to name a few, are looking for volunteers to assist in their programs. Most volunteers give their time and expertise to help others in need, but volunteering can also benefit the individual. Volunteering can help you gain and maintain marketable skills, obtain current and documented job experience, earn college credits, and develop contacts and current references in an area of interest.

Updated volunteer opportunities are posted online at <http://www.goodfellow.af.mil> and remain posted until the event is over or until volunteers are no longer needed. For more information on volunteering, contact the Volunteer Program Manager at the Airman & Family Readiness Center, building 145, 171 Valiant (across the street from the Chapel), Goodfellow AFB, TX, email: fsc.programs@us.af.mil or call 325-654-3893 or see <http://www.goodfellow.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123367505>.



Equal Opportunity (EO)

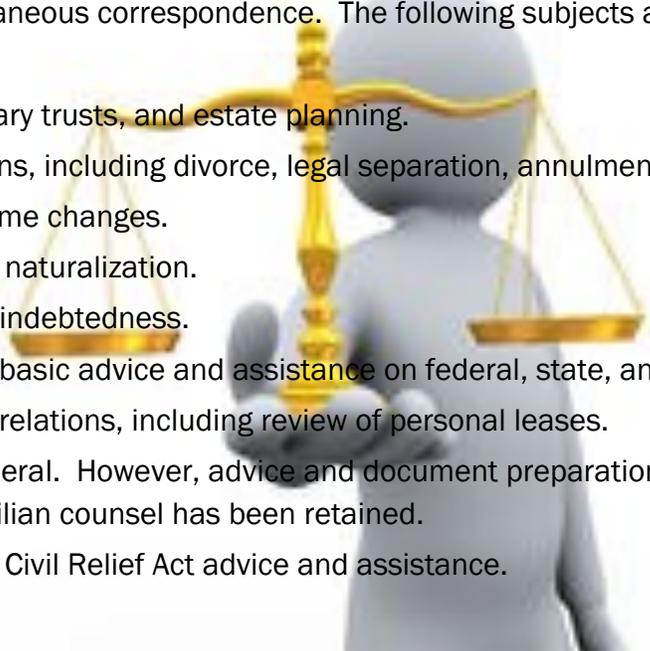
The Equal Opportunity (EO) office is established to enhance mission effectiveness, and offers services for military personnel, their family members, **retirees**, and civilian employees at Goodfellow AFB. The EO office provides subject-matter expertise and advises the commander on matters of unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment. Additionally, the EO office uses climate assessments to evaluate positives and negatives in the local community, and identifies, assesses and removes equal-opportunity barriers. Through human relations education the office creates an understanding for the need for a positive human relations environment.

Additionally, the EO office provides complaint services. The objective of civilian

EO complaint counseling is to seek opportunities to resolve issues at the lowest organizational level for civilian employees on Goodfellow AFB. Retirees, along with military personnel and their family members, may file military informal and formal complaints concerning unlawful discrimination (based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex) or sexual harassment. EO specialists cannot, however, accept informal or formal complaints from military members, family members or retirees if their concern is related to their off-base or DoD civilian employment.

The Base Legal Office offers legal assistance to: (1) all members of the Armed Forces on active duty (including members of a reserve component); (2) reservists released from active duty, having served 30 days or more; (3) retirees from all branches of the service; and (4) lawful dependents, dependent survivors of deceased military members, and some former spouses of military members or retirees.

Legal assistance is available for most personal civil legal matters. Documents prepared for clients include: simple wills, general, special and durable powers of attorney, bills of sale, promissory notes and other miscellaneous correspondence. The following subjects are within the scope of legal assistance provided:

- 
- (1) Wills, testamentary trusts, and estate planning.
 - (2) Domestic relations, including divorce, legal separation, annulment, custody, and paternity.
 - (3) Adoption and name changes.
 - (4) Immigration and naturalization.
 - (5) Nonsupport and indebtedness.
 - (6) Taxes, including basic advice and assistance on federal, state, and local taxes.
 - (7) Landlord-tenant relations, including review of personal leases.
 - (8) Civil suits, in general. However, advice and document preparation will not be provided in cases where civilian counsel has been retained.
 - (9) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act advice and assistance.

The following three areas are outside the scope of legal assistance:

- (1) Criminal matters.
- (2) Problems involving specialized areas of law.
- (3) Appearances on behalf of the client in person or before a court or government agency.

Legal assistance is available to eligible Department of Defense ID card holders on a walk-in basis on Tuesday from 0900 to 1000 hours (no wills), and Thursday from 1430 to 1530 hours (no wills). Legal assistance is also provided on an appointment basis on Wednesday between 0900 and 1100 hours. Wills are by appointment only. No legal assistance is provided on Monday or Friday. Exceptions to these hours are made for emergencies, to include deploying personnel. Notary and powers of attorney are a walk-in service Monday through Friday between 0730 and 1630 hours. All services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 325-654-3203.

You may use this website for general legal information:

<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.



Goodfellow AFB Installation Access Procedures

There are only two authorized methods to process a visitor onto an Air Force installation when they do not possess an ID card: they may be escorted or unescorted. Both methods require the sponsor to assume ultimate responsibility for the visitor and their actions until the guest departs the installation. If it is impractical for the sponsor to remain with the visitor at all times, an unescorted visitor pass must be obtained.



At unspecified times, Security Forces may require all occupants in a vehicle to present identification. If passengers are not prepared, this can cause entry delays at the entry control points. To prevent delays, all passengers should have their ID credential out and ready for inspection before approaching the gate.

Goodfellow AFB uses a process called the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) to positively identify personnel entering the installation. With few exceptions, all contract workers, service providers, active-duty personnel and personal guests will be registered in DBIDS. Visitors 18 years of age or older must possess a federal or state-issued photo while on base or they will not be allowed entry. Authorized sponsors must be 16 years of age or older and will meet visitors at the Visitor Control Center (VCC) when requesting to sponsor personnel. A criminal background check will be completed by Security Forces to ensure visitors are fit to enter a federal installation before issuing a pass. If the visitor is found unfit for entry, access will be denied.

With specific DoD exceptions, personnel are only authorized one ID card at a time. If an ID credential was previously reported lost or stolen, it must be returned to the nearest authority if recovered at a later date. If DBIDS identifies a credential previously reported lost or stolen, it will be immediately confiscated. Retired personnel possessing a legacy ID card that is not capable of being scanned will be directed to the local Military Personnel Flight to update their credential.

Contact Security Forces at (325) 654-5905 if you have questions concerning these policies.



TRICARE Plan Spotlight: The US Family Health Plan:

TRICARE offers several different health plans to its 9.5 million beneficiaries. Although many are familiar with the most-popular Standard and Prime options, there are other less-well-known health plans, including the US Family Health Plan (USFHP).



USFHP is a TRICARE Prime option offered through networks of community-based, not-for-profit health care systems, available in six areas of the United States. To enroll in USFHP, beneficiaries must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System and live within one of the designated USFHP service areas.

USFHP enrollment is open all year and re-enrollment is automatic at the beginning of each fiscal year. Beneficiaries can enroll [online](#) by calling 1-800-748-7347 or by mailing the enrollment form to the USFHP site. The mailing address is listed on the enrollment form for each USFHP site. This form along with the TRICARE Prime Enrollment, Disenrollment, and Primary Care Manager (PCM) Change Form (DD Form 2876), can be found at www.tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/USFHP.

Enrollment forms must include an initial three-month payment. There is no enrollment fee for active duty family members and beneficiaries with Medicare Part B coverage. For all others, the annual enrollment fee mirrors the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee and is payable by check or electronic funds transfer (EFT). Subsequent payments must be made by EFT, recurring credit/debit charges or monthly allotment. Current USFHP fees are listed at www.tricare.mil/costs.

Beneficiaries who enroll in a USFHP agree not to use TRICARE Standard and Extra, TRICARE For Life or other TRICARE programs. They also agree not to use Medicare Part A or Part B except for services that are not routinely covered by the USFHP, like chiropractic care.



If you live in one of the six designated areas, you may want to consider the US Family Health Plan. It's a comprehensive Prime option that even offers enhanced coverage at each location. Visit www.usfhp.com for more information.

All TRICARE health plans exceed the Affordable Care Act mandate that health coverage must offer a level of minimal essential coverage. If you are looking for other health insurance, you're encouraged to explore your options through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov. (Source: *Tricare.mil*)

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE
17TRW/CVR
351 Kearney Blvd, Room 119E
(Wing HQ Building)
Goodfellow AFB, TX 76908

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



We would like to send future editions by email. They will also be available online at : <http://www.goodfellow.af.mil/units/retireeactivitiesoffice.asp>
If you would like to receive email newsletters send an email to the Retiree Activities Office at :
17TRW.CVR.RetireesActivity@us.af.mil

Links to Important Sites

To find your state representative:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

To find your state senators:

<http://www.senate.gov>

To find Goodfellow AFB:

<http://www.goodfellow.af.mil/>

To find the VA: <http://www.va.gov>

To find DFAS: <http://www.dfas.mil>

To find Tricare: <http://www.tricare.mil>

To schedule appointment to renew ID Card

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>

Link to Retiree Publications

Army Echoes

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Navy Shift Colors: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Air Force Afterburner:

www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

www.usmc-mccs.org

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras>

