

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE



ON THE RADAR

7437 6th St., Bldg. 430, Room 134, Hill AFB, UT 84056 | 801.777.5735 | hillrao@gmail.com

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please call 801.777.5735 to register for classes and activities. Space is limited:

VA Face to Face Benefits Briefing - March 6, Friday, 1100
Offered by Veterans Service Officer, Audie Valdez

Build a Binder Class - March 13, Friday, 1100
Held 2nd Friday/month. Make things easier for your loved ones by keeping all your important info in one place. Join us at the Retiree Activities Office, Bldg. 430, room 134.

Social Security 101 - March 20, Friday, 1100
Held 3rd Friday/month. *Call above number to reserve a seat to watch in our conference room, or via link to your device.*

Medicare 101 - March 27, Friday 1100
Learn how the program works & for military veterans and spouses the link between Medicare and TRICARE for Life. Watch in our conference room or via link to your device.

 Follow 75th Marketing on Facebook for more base events: <https://www.facebook.com/HillFSS>
(page name: Hill FSS)

Changes to Your Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) Beneficiaries

Life changes — and when it does, your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) may need to change, too.

If you get married, divorced, or remarry, it's important to review your SBP coverage. There are time limits set by Congress for starting, stopping, or making changes to your SBP, so don't wait. Once you receive the official documentation confirming your status change, be sure to take action as soon as possible.

The good news? You don't have to navigate it alone. Mr. Andre Smith, Hill AFB's Casualty and Survivor Benefits Counselor, is available to help you complete and submit the necessary paperwork. If you have questions or need assistance, give him a call at 801-777-9399.

A quick call today can help ensure your loved ones are protected tomorrow.

The State of Utah Veterans Benefits

Did you know?

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces residing in the state of Utah may be eligible for a broad range of federal and state benefits and services.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is to connect veterans and service members with the benefits and resources available to them. These benefits and services were created to assist veterans and their families.

Go to <https://veterans.utah.gov/benefits-services/>

Click on each icon to learn more about that topic: VA Claims Assistance

Healthcare

Education

Employment

Legal Assistance

BVbusiness Resources

Burial Benefits

Recreation

Housing/Homelessness



Enrolling Your New Child in TRICARE

Welcoming a new baby, or adding an adopted or foster child, requires quick action to secure health coverage through TRICARE.

You must first register your child in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (<https://tricare.mil/deers>)). You have 90 days in the U.S. to do so, or 120 days overseas from the date of birth, adoption, or court placement.

PLEASE NOTE! Your child may *not* be automatically enrolled with TRICARE once registered with DEERS. Be sure to **confirm coverage** by contacting TRICARE directly. *More information to follow in the April newsletter.*



Benefits for 100% Disabled Veterans

Veterans with a 100% VA disability rating - including those classified as Permanent & Total (P&T) - receive some of the most comprehensive benefits available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Call the VA to get a full briefing on your benefits.

At the core is **tax-free monthly compensation**, along with **free, comprehensive health care** under Priority Group 1 and full **dental** coverage. Eligible dependents may receive coverage through **CHAMPVA** (<https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/health-and-disability/champva/>), and spouses and children can qualify for education assistance through the **Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)** program.

Additional benefits may include a waiver of the VA home loan funding fee, housing grants and adaptive home and auto equipment, travel reimbursement for VA medical appointments, and a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment. Some veterans may also qualify for expedited Social Security processing.

State benefits vary. For example, in Utah, eligible veterans may receive property tax exemptions and free hunting and fishing licenses. Many 100% disabled veterans also qualify for a Uniformed Services ID card, providing access to commissary, exchange, and certain on-base facilities.

Veterans rated 100% P&T can still work, as their condition is not expected to improve. Those receiving Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) are paid at the 100% rate because service-connected disabilities prevent substantially gainful employment.

Family caregivers may also qualify for stipends, training, and health insurance through the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

HISTORICAL CORNER



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) WP-3D Hurricane Hunters

by Sam Stubbs

If you're the kind of kid who jumps off a roller coaster and runs right back in the line, NOAA may have your dream job.

Since 1976, NOAA's two WP-3D hurricane hunters, specially modified Lockheed Corporation Orion aircraft, have flown straight into some of the planet's most powerful storms. These aren't typical airliners. They're packed with advanced radars, recording systems, and scientific instruments designed to collect low-altitude data that satellites and ground-based radar simply can't capture.

On board is a Step Frequency Microwave Radiometer, which measures ocean surface windspeed by detecting radiation emitted from seafoam whipped up by hurricane-force winds. The aircraft's nose and lower radome house C-band radar, while an X-band radar sits in the tail. Instead of Navy sonobuoys, these planes deploy "dropsondes"—small sensor packages that parachute into storms, transmitting real-time data on temperature, windspeed, and barometric pressure.

With more than 10,000 flight hours each and over 80 hurricanes tracked, these aircraft have dramatically improved storm forecasting. The critical data they gather is transmitted directly to the National Hurricane Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, helping experts issue accurate warnings and evacuation recommendations when lives and property are at risk.

FROM RAO HQ

Retirement Activities Director/Newsletter editor:

Christine Monroe

RAO volunteers: Dan Rutledge, Sam Stubbs, Jennifer Stubbs, Marli Scott, Anne Hunsinger, Sandra Hubbard, Ron Hubbard, Barbara Godsey, Sharon Dominguez, Ebbie Russett, Ron Russett, Matthew Monroe-Jimenez, Ed Anderson, Brian McClland, David Cohen, Debra Harlan, Kendell Hoyer, Stacy Lacey

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 1000 - 1400

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT, IMPLIED OR OTHERWISE, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS.