

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE



ON THE RADAR

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From the RAO

The Retiree Activities Office, Building 430, Room 134, Hill AFB, Utah works to "get the word out" about programs that assist military veterans. We are a referral office, providing outreach briefings to all agencies that have military veteran members, and we host three monthly classes.

If you would like to visit our office or participate in the classes you must have access to Hill AFB. However, if you do not have base access and would like to participate in the classes you may do so by using a video link which allows you to watch the class on your own device at your location.

The **Social Security and Medicare classes** are taught by a Public Affairs Agent from each of those offices who will also make appointments to help you with personal questions - which means no waiting on-hold for you!

You must register for each class by calling, or stopping by our office to register, as class size is limited.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE: Please call 801.777.5735 to register for classes and activities:

Build a Binder Class - January 9, Friday, 1030

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. Please CALL to register for class.

Social Security 101 - January 16, Friday, 1100

Held 3rd Friday/month - limited space available. Call above number to reserve a seat or request a Zoom link to attend virtually.

Medicare 101 - January 23, Friday 1100

Learn how the program works and for military veterans and spouses the link between Medicare and Tricare for Life.

 Follow 75th Marketing on Facebook for more base events: <https://www.facebook.com/HillFSS> (page name: Hill FSS)
Ask to be added to their distribution list at 75FSS.FSK.Marketing@us.af.mil



Gratitude and Connection

From the Integrate Resilience Office ABW Hill AFB

As we begin the new year we encourage you to take a moment for two powerful practices that build resilience: gratitude and connection.

Gratitude is a fundamental skill that strengthens our spirit. 2025 was a year that asked much of us. Consciously acknowledging the good in our lives grounds us and shifts our perspective. *But gratitude is most powerful when it is shared.*

This is where connection comes in. Reaching out to others - a colleague, a mentor, a family member, or a friend - to express thanks is one of the most effective ways to reinforce our professional and personal bonds. These relationships are the bedrock of our resilience. They provide the support, perspective, and encouragement we need to navigate challenges and thrive. A simple phone call or a thoughtful message can strengthen a connection that may be called upon in the year ahead.

As we celebrate the new year we invite you to put this into practice. Take a moment to feel gratitude and then take the next step: turn that gratitude into a connection by reaching out.

BENEFITS BRIEFING



National and State Park Winter Fun

Remember back in March when we suggested you grab your **FREE National and State Park passes**? If you haven't yet, now's the perfect time.

National Park Military Lifetime Passes are a valuable perk for retirees, veterans and Gold Star families. Learn about all pass options and eligibility at <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm#america-the-beautiful-passes>. Note: only **Senior** and **Access** passes include discounts on camping and other expanded amenity fees.

Already have a pass? Put it to use this winter with fewer crowds and stunning seasonal scenery. Here are a few winter standouts:

Bryce Canyon National Park (UT) hosts a Winter Festival February 14 - 16 featuring free clinics, demonstrations, and guided tours. Registration and waivers are available online.

Joshua Tree National Park (CA) Cooler temperatures make winter ideal for hiking, sightseeing, and camping in this stunning desert landscape.

The **Channel Islands National Park (CA)** a winter gem off the California coast delivers unforgettable views and wildlife experiences. Watch the park video <https://www.nps.gov/chis/index.htm>. You may be inspired to book a whale watching trip!

Antelope Island Utah State Park hosts *Dark Skies Star Parties* in partnership with the Ogden Astronomical Society. For winter night-sky viewing and park event schedules visit stateparks.utah.gov

Bundle up, grab your pass, and enjoy the parks at their most peaceful and spectacular!

Free Tax Return Assistance - Utah.gov

For free tax preparation assistance in Utah visit <https://incometax.utah.gov/filing/free-assistance>. The website provides information on organizations that provide free tax preparation services, such as VITA, TCE and Tax Help Utah, as well as information on additional free online filing resources.

HISTORICAL CORNER



The Amazing U.S. Army MIM-14 Nike Hercules Missile by Sam Stubbs

In 1944, U.S. Army Airforce planners reached a hard truth: radar-guided anti-aircraft guns were useless against high-altitude bombers. By the time guns could engage, the bombs were already falling. When the Soviet Union reverse-engineered the B-29 (TU-4) and detonated its first nuclear weapon in 1949, the need for a guided missile became urgent.

The Army moved fast. A team led by Bell Labs, Western Electric, and Douglas Aircraft won the contract to build the world's first surface-to-air guided missile - the Nike Ajax.

The Ajax was a game-changer. Flying at Mach 2.25 with a 25-mile range and a 70,000-foot ceiling, its 170-pound warhead could shatter TU-4 bomber formations. But the threat evolved quickly. Faster aircraft - the TU-16, M-4, and supersonic TU-22 - soon outpaced the Ajax.

Enter the Nike Hercules. Guided by Doppler radar and armed with a nuclear warhead, it could destroy entire bomber formations from up to 90-miles away. Later versions even added ballistic-missile defense and a surface-to-surface capability.

By 1963, 112 Nike Hercules batteries ringed U.S. cities and guarded strategic sites worldwide, including 12 NATO and Asian nations. The last Hercules stood down in 1988, replaced by Raytheon's mobile MIM-104 Patriot - so precise that nuclear warheads were no longer needed

FROM RAO HQ

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Office hours: Monday - Friday, 1000 - 1400

In addition to this newsletter, we offer outreach briefings in the community. Stop by the office or give us a call. We have lots of info and can help you locate service providers in several areas.

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