
 RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE



ON THE RADAR

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

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

VA Face to Face Benefits Briefing - May 1, Friday, 1100

Offered by Veterans Service Officer, Audie Valdez

Build a Binder Class - May 8, Friday, 1100

Held 2nd Friday/month. Make things easier for your loved ones by keeping your important info in one place. Join us at the Retiree Activities Office, Bldg. 430, room 134.

Social Security 101 - May 13, Wednesday, 1100

Call to reserve a seat in our conference room or for a link to your device.

Medicare 101 - May 27, Wednesday, 1100

Learn how Medicare works with Tricare for Life (for veterans & spouses). Watch in our conference room or via link to your device.

f Follow 75th Marketing on Facebook for more base events: <https://www.facebook.com/HillFSS>



Pass on a Legacy of Leadership

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (ages 10–17) meets one weekend a month at the Navy Reserve Center on Hill AFB. The program builds character, self-confidence, teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills, useful for college, trades, or military service, though it is not a recruitment program. For details: www.seacadets.org, www.seacadetsutah.org, or contact Unit Recruiting Officer L. Montanez at L.montanez@seacadets.org.



America the Beautiful Park Passes by Christine Monroe, RAO Director

I headed to southeastern Utah near Moab this past weekend to visit the amazing Canyonlands National Park. They offer easy to difficult hikes, many viewpoints, campsites, and a great visitor center. They also provide a map for dispersed campsites just outside the park.

Veterans can obtain the **free America the Beautiful pass**, which provides lifetime access to over 2,000 federal recreation sites in the U.S., covering entrance and standard day-use fees.

If you're disabled 10% or more, you're eligible for the free **America the Beautiful Access Pass**, which also offers discounts on expanded amenity fees like camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours at many locations.

UPDATE on Utah State Park Passes

The state is negotiating a lifetime veterans park pass. If your pass is expired and you have a DD Form 214 showing an honorable discharge, you'll be granted free day access to state parks when you show it at the park check-in booth. Hope you get out and enjoy the outdoors soon (before the summer rush!).

Medicare News Notes - did you know...

Utah Health Insurance Assistance Program or SHIP - (800.541.7735) helps Medicare enrollees navigate the Medicare program, providing free, unbiased and individualized information. Housed within the Utah Department of Health - Aging & Adult Services, the Utah SHIP has local locations (<https://daas.utah.gov/locations/>) throughout the state.

Utah Senior Medicare Patrol or SMP - (800.541.7735) helps Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors and abuse.

BENEFITS (CONT.)



LIFELINE FOR VETS

CHAMPVA Medical Benefits

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program where the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. *Who is eligible for this benefit?* CHAMPVA is available to spouses, dependent children, and survivors of veterans with permanent and total service-connected disabilities or who died from service-connect conditions, provided they are **not** eligible for TRICARE.

How Utah Veterans Can Get a CHAMPVA Medical Briefing

If you live in Utah and need a briefing on CHAMPVA medical benefits the best starting point is the VA's official CHAMPVA Customer Service line. The national CHAMPVA number is 800.733.8387, open Monday - Friday, 8:05 am to 7:30 pm EST. Due to heavy call volume there is an option to get a call back so you don't have to stay on hold. This line can answer eligibility questions, explain covered and non-covered services, and guide you through the process.

The National Veterans Foundation website is <https://nvf.org/champva-civilian-health-and-medical-program/>. There is a benefits office at the Salt Lake City VA campus, Building 550, second floor, where you can also get your questions answered.

Warriors over the Wasatch Air Show Coming June 27-28, 2026

The Thunderbirds will be performing! Contact the Utah Air Show Foundation for VIP tickets at <https://theutahairshow.com>. The Patriot Club has tickets for bleachers, as well.



Volunteers needed in the RAO for a four-hour shift. Or if you can help Fridays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm that works as well! Training will be provided. Call 801.777.5735 today! *Volunteer opportunities also available nationally!*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Retiree Appreciation Day - October 1st!

The Retiree Activities Office is once again hosting the Retiree Appreciation Day event at the Hill AFB BX on October 1, 2026, from 11 am - 2 pm. Save the date, and spread the word to your retired military friends!

HISTORICAL CORNER



The Ka-Bar Knife - a fighting Marine's Last Resort by Sam Stubbs

In 1942, amid World War II, the War Department and Marine Corps sought a new combat knife to replace the bulky WWI Mark I Trench Knife and the fragile Marine Raider stiletto - something rugged enough for fighting and versatile for jungle, trench, and field tasks. Many Marines were already using Bowie-style hunting knives, which influenced specifications issued to knife manufacturers. Camillus Cutlery Co. of New York submitted the prototype designated M1219C2, which performed well in trials. Although the Marine Quartermaster initially rejected the first order, the Corps Commandant overruled that decision, and the Marine Corps adopted the knife on November 23, 1942; the Navy and Army followed soon after.

The familiar name "Ka-Bar" comes from Union Cutlery Co., another M1219C2 manufacturer, which had trademarked "KA-BAR" in 1923 after a hunter's letter described using his knife to "kill a bear."

Years in service: November 1942 - present day (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq War)

Blade Length: 7", 11.875" overall **Weight:** .65 lbs.

Blade material: 1095 Cro-van steel parkerized

Handle: stacked leather washer, pinned butt cap

Scabbard: leather (Marine), plastic (Navy)

FROM RAO HQ

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Office hours: Monday - Friday, 1000 - 1400

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