



RETIREE RAG

December 2020



RETIRED and SEPARATED...Not gone, Not forgotten.

TRICARE Open Season

For Military Retirees with Tricare for Life, Open Season is the time of year when you must enroll in **Dental and Vision Plans**.

Dental and vision plans are available through the [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#) (FEDVIP), offered by the Office of Personnel Management.

How do I enroll or change my FEDVIP plan?

The 2020 [Federal Benefits Open Season](#) is **November 9 - December 14, 2020**. You can enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan during open season or after experiencing a FEDVIP qualifying life event (QLE).

For more information,
visit www.benefeds.com, or call
1-877-888-FEDS (1-877-888-3337)
TTY: 1-877-889-5680
International: +1-571-730-5942

If you have any Tricare policy except TRICARE FOR LIFE: The 2020 **TRICARE Open Season begins November 9 and ends December 14, 2020**. During TRICARE Open Season, If you're enrolled in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime retiree or TRICARE, you can:

- **Do nothing.** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health care plan, you don't have to re-enroll. You'll continue in your current health plan as long as you're eligible.
- **Change plans.** If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option, or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

VA SURVIVING SPOUSE WEBSITE

The Department of Veteran Affairs has created a new internet website for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died on active duty and for survivors and dependents of veterans who died after leaving the service.

Check out their website for more information <http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors>.

Kansas Legislative Update. During the 2020 Kansas Legislative session, Veterans Groups identified a number of issues to collaborate on and advocate for passage of during the session.

A collective Hill Day was organized on February 17, 2020. The National Guard Association of Kansas (NGAKS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas (EANGKS) both attended the event and advocated at the Kansas Statehouse on behalf of all Guardsmen, former and current. The Kansas Legislature adjourned very early without addressing any of the policy issues adopted by the National Guard Associations.

For the 2021 Kansas Legislative Session, the same issues need to be addressed by the Legislature, since they were not discussed at all in 2020.

Two key initiatives supported by the National Guard Associations and other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) for Kansans are:

- **Fully fund Kansas National Guard Tuition Assistance Program**
- **In-State tuition rates for all veterans and dependents**

Another initiative adopted in 2020 by VSOs which could impact Military Retirees is:

- **Commit to fund and plan for new Veterans senior care facility in Kansas**

Watch for more information from NGAKS and EANGKS Legislative Teams on how we can advocate for Guardsmen during the 2021 session.

NGAKS Legislative Chair is Major Nicki Inskeep and EANGKS Legislative Chair is MSgt Eugene Bradley.

*The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights,
makes the most reliable soldier on earth.
~Stonewall Jackson~*

Air Force Retiree Web page <https://www.retirees.af.mil/>
Afterburner Newsletter and other information

Army Retiree Services web page <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement>
Army Echoes Newsletter and other information



FORT RILEY RETIREE APPRECIATION 2020



The **Fort Riley Retiree Council** exists for military retirees to benefit by sharing information with retirees in the catchment area covered by Fort Riley.

The Council planned to host an in-person Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on October 17, 2020. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, Retiree Appreciation Day is now VIRTUAL (V-RAD) online at Facebook.

FIND, LIKE and SHARE the Fort Riley Retirement Services Office (RSO) FACEBOOK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FortRileyRetirementServices> .

Watch short videos directly from veterans' organizations, including:

Fort Riley Retiree Council Members, Fort Riley Retirement Services Office, Kansas Honor Flight, Tri-Care Health Insurance, Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System, VFW, American Legion, Operation Santa Claus, Manhattan Military Relations Council, Federal Long-Term Care Insurance, VA Burial Benefits and Cemeteries, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, Irwin Army Hospital, Fort Riley Garrison Commander, Society of the First Infantry Division, Post Commissary and Exchange, Armed Forces Bank, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Medicare Information, Employment Services, Association of the US Army, and more!

Also available is a RESOURCE SHEET with information that military retirees can access—in writing, via email or hard copy (upon request to Fort Riley Retirement Services Office). The Resource Sheet will be posted on the Facebook page and sent via email/mailed by Mid-December to those on the RSO mail list.

This year, with the changes in our lifestyle due to COVID19 concerns, there was a one-day FLU SHOT DRIVE THRU at the Irwin Army Community Hospital on Fort Riley. On November 14, more than 70 retirees and spouses drove through the line at IACH to get their flu, TDAP and whooping cough shots. They were also registered in a drawing for prizes, including a 32" television set, and several \$25 gift cards from the Post Exchange.



November 14 FLU SHOT DRIVE THRU at Irwin Army Community Hospital. Volunteers check retirees in to get their shots!

