

RAO News Letter #2019-5 APPLICATION NOW ONLINE FOR AIR GUARD RETIREMENT

The Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, has released an online application it says will help Guard and Reserve airmen more easily apply for retirement pay and benefits.

Retirees approaching age 60, or those that qualify for reduced retired pay age will no longer need their DD Form 2656 and ARPC Form 83 for their retirement pay and benefits.

Officials say the online application will guide applicants through the process, allowing them to only input relevant information, and reducing the number of incomplete or inaccurate applications submitted to ARPC.

The command also released a how-to video to help retirees better understand the new process. The application and video are available at www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement.

The new web-based application followed a report by NBC News of retired Air Guardsmen and Air Force Reservists waiting months beyond their 60th birthday for retirement pay.

ARPC officials told NBC News that they had added staff to close the gap, but said delays were inevitable because of the outdated system.

Part-time Guardsmen and Reservists with 20 years of service are entitled to a military pension based upon their highest rank and accumulated days of service. But it is up to each retiree to apply in writing for the payments to begin.

(Source: WWW.NGAUS.ORG May 2019)

APPLYING FOR RETIREMENT PAY

Applying for retirement pay begins by submitting an application through the Virtual Personnel Center, [VPC](#). Individuals approaching their Retirement pay effective date (60th birthday or reduced retirement pay age) should submit an application four months prior to this date.

Applicants will be notified when a technician receives their application and will receive their retirement order two weeks prior to their effective date in most cases. Some exceptions are members who work up to their retired pay effective date and members who file late. Applicants who do not receive their order two weeks prior to their effective date are advised to submit a message to the retirement section via myPers, followed up by a phone call to the Total Force Service Center 1-800-525-0102.

With the retirement order, retirees are able to receive their retiree ID Card from their local military personnel service office and apply for healthcare through Tricare. HQ ARPC submits retirement orders to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DFAS, where they are processed to initiate the retirement payments. [DFAS](#) typically processes retirement pay 30-45 days after receipt of the retirement order, or retirement pay effective date, whichever is later. Once you have received your retirement order please direct questions or concerns to DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. IMPORTANT NOTE: HQ ARPC DOES NOT PROCESS RETIREMENT PAY.

APPLICATION

The DD Form 2656 must filled out and submitted no earlier than 4 months and no later than 30 days before your 60th birthday.

- [DD Form 2656](#)
- [Retirement Application Process \(how-to video\)](#)

(SOURCE: <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement/>)