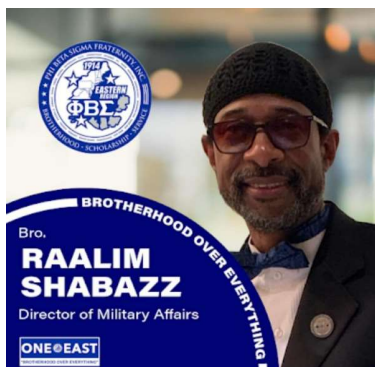




Eastern Regional Military Affairs Sentinel August 2024 Edition



10 Back-to-School Deals for Military Families

As summer camps wind to a close and kids make their final splashes at the pool, parents have one thing on their minds: back-to-school shopping.

1. Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade

Operation Homefront partners with Dollar Tree to collect school supplies for military children as part of their Back-to-School Brigade. Volunteers distribute the supplies at events throughout the country during the back-to-school season. Visit the [Operation Homefront website](#) for more information and to find events in your area.

2. Tax-Free Shopping Days

For a few days each year, some states offer a "sales tax holiday" right around back-to-school time when shoppers can buy specified items tax-free. This is a great way to save on back-to-school necessities like clothes, shoes, and other school supplies. Be sure to look at this [list of participating states and dates](#) before you head out to shop.

3. Clothing and Accessories

By the time summer is over, the kids have either outgrown all their school clothes or worn them ragged from vacation and camp. Update their wardrobe with new clothes and accessories using military discounts at stores like Kohl's, Old Navy, L.L.Bean, Wrangler and Columbia. If you're mall shopping, be sure to ask for a military discount in every store you stop in. Some malls, like the Lynnhaven Mall in Virginia Beach, Virginia, offer military discounts in many of their stores.

4. Shoes

No back-to-school wardrobe is complete without new shoes. So take advantage of the military discounts offered by stores like Rack Room Shoes, New Balance, Nike, Crocs, OOFOS and Steve Madden.

5. Classroom Supplies

Most schools expect parents to help stock classroom supplies like pencils, crayons, notebooks, folders, scissors, glue, and binders, as well as necessities like tissues and hand sanitizer. Find these supplies and use military discounts at Office Depot, Michaels and Jo-Ann Fabric.

6. Eye wear

It may be time for a new prescription or maybe just fun new frames. Military discounts are available when purchasing glasses at Zenni.com and Eyemart Express.

7. Backpacks and Lunch Bags

Looking for backpacks and lunch bags? Vera Bradley has adorable collections and offers a 10% military discount. Kohl's also has backpacks and lunch bags, but keep in mind their military discount is only valid on Mondays.

8. Tutoring and Test Prep

Does your child need a little extra help with homework and studying? Tutor.com, where expert tutors are online 24/7, offers free tutoring for military families. Do you have older kids getting ready for college testing? eKnowledge donates their SAT and ACT College Test Preparation Programs to service members and their families. You pay a small fee of either \$19.99 (standard), \$39.99 (premium) or \$99.99 (super course).

9. Computers, Devices and Cellphone Plans

If you're looking to buy a computer or other devices, check out the military discounts offered by Apple. Most cellphone providers, like Verizon and T-Mobile, offer military discounts, so if you're in the market for new cellphone plans to keep in touch with your active student, contact your provider to ask

what they offer for military families. (Some offer military discounts on devices and accessories as well.)

10. Exchange Price Match Policy

Don't forget that the Navy Exchange (NEX), the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) and the Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) all offer price matching. That means if you see a lower price for the same item at another store, bring proof to the Exchange and you can buy that item for the competitor's price. Mall in Virginia Beach, Virginia, offer military discounts in many of their stores.

Time to Check Your ARMS Records

Please visit the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) MilConnect website at [<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>] to retrieve a copy of your DD Form 214/NGB 22. This will expedite your request due to the high volume of requests we receive.

First time users will need to register by clicking on “Sign In” in the top right-hand corner. Then, select the “Need an Account” button. If you have an existing account, you will need to upgrade to a Premium Account in order to access the website. Once the account is established, you will have continued access to the website to retrieve a copy of your DD Form 214/NGB 22 using the DS Logon you have established.

Once logged on to the site, please select:

- Select Correspondence/Documentation
- Defense Personnel Records Information Retrieval System (DPRIS)
- Personnel File Tab
- Request Your OMPF Information
- Click Accept
- Input Email Address, select Air Force
- Select the item(s) you want and click submit.
- A notice should display, “Your request has been successfully submitted and is being processed. You will receive notification via email when your requested information is available for viewing in the MilConnect portal.”

If you have questions regarding the MilConnect website, please contact the MilConnect Help Desk at 1-800-477-8227. If you are unable to access your records through MilConnect, you can also complete a SF 180 and mail it to the address on the back of the form or you can upload it into myFSS. You can find the SF 180 at the following link:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>. Complete Section I through III on the SF180, place the Incident ID on your documents and

send the form back to us by replying to this email or uploading the form on myFSS: **Search “Military Records Retrieval”** in Search knowledge Article - Create A Request button is located at the bottom of the knowledge article. If links don't work, try switching between Edge and Chrome browsers.

Visit myFSS for all your personnel related needs at <https://myfss.us.af.mil>
MyFSS is the total force source for personnel information and services. As Regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, or civilian employees, MyFSS is available 24/7.

Total Force Service Center: The main criteria to qualify for a DD Form 214 is for members to complete 90 days or more of continuous active duty or active duty for training (ADT). If less than 90 days, the active duty completed must be in support of a contingency operation, i.e. Noble eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom.

ARPC is responsible for completing DD 214' for:

ALL IMA Reservists

ALL Separated and Retired ANG and AFR Members

ALL Unit assigned ANG and AFR members receiving an active-duty retirement.

ALL ANG and AFR members retiring due to a PDRL or TDRL

ALL Congressional and BCMR inquiries for ANG or AFR members.

ALL DD 215 requests for ANG and AFR members.

ARPC is the sole OPR for DD 215s for the ANG and AFR, NOT for AF REG AF DD 214's corrections request, AFPC processes their own DD 215's

To be eligible for a DD Form 214 per AFI 36-3202 Chapter 2, and DODI 1336.01 you must have

- Completed orders of 90 consecutive days or more of active-duty service - or
- Served voluntarily in support of a Contingency Operation such as Inherent Resolve or Enduring Freedom etc. - or
- Involuntarily mobilized under Title 10, USC Section 688, 12301(a), 12302, 12304, 12305, 12406 or 331-335.

Effective 23 Jan 2019, any orders for Contingency and Mobilization must be for 30 days or more to be eligible for a DD-214. This is not retroactive, so any Contingency / Mobilization orders that began prior to 23 Jan 2019 only require 1 day or more to be eligible.

If you qualify to receive a DD Form 214, please provide the following:

Active-duty orders (front and back) and any order modifications

Finalized travel vouchers for any overseas travel during period of requested DD Form 214. Training Certificates for courses that may have been completed during that timeframe. Any EPR's/OPR's/awards/decorations received during

the period requested. AF Form 526's point summary (for 214's prior to 2001).

TFSC will create a DD Form 214 for personnel with eligible periods of service who did not receive one before retiring, separating, or being discharged. Please see below for guidance for submitting source documents through myfss:

1. Log
into
the
myfss
website
(<https://myfss.us.af.mil>)
2. Search
Knowledge
Base
—
AFR/ANG
General
Information
about
the
DD
form
214.
3. Scroll
to
the
bottom
and
click
“Create
a
Request.”
4. Question/Comment-
Explain
what
is

needed.

1. Upload
Supporting
Document
at
the
bottom/
click

upload files/ Click Open

Click Submit If you are unable to access myFss, you can reply directly to this email and attach your supporting documentation. Please be aware of our current average completion times listed below based on the type of request. Retirement DD Form 214 and/or PRDL/TDRL – within 3-5 days of your retirement date

IMA DD Form 214 – 8-10 weeks

DD Form 214 requests – 10-12 weeks

DD Form 215 requests >12 weeks

Normally, unit Reserve and Air National Guard members do NOT receive a DD 214 when they separate/retire. If this request is for a separation/retirement DD-214, you must have served 90 consecutive active-duty days or more and those orders must terminate the day prior to your effective separation/retirement date to be eligible for a separation/retirement DD-214. MyFSS is the total force source for personnel information and services. As Regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, or civilian employees, MyFSS is available 24/7.

Managing your retired or SBP pay account just got easier

Dear Retiree or SBP Annuitant,

We continue to look for ways to make the important work of managing pay easier for military retirees, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants, and survivors. Using your feedback, we recently set out on a mission to make our askDFAS online tools experience more intuitive and helpful.

We refreshed the "Ask Retired Pay" module of askDFAS to make it easier to navigate. The changes combine familiar functionality with expanded options and reorganized tools so you can easily find the correct tool for your request.

For both retirees and SBP annuitants, there are many new online upload tools. This means now you can submit any form or document you need to send us online as a PDF via these tools.

Even more exciting, there are now new options for retirees and SBP annuitants to ask account questions online via askDFAS! Now you won't have to always make a phone call to get the answer to a question!

For SBP annuitants, there is now an option to request an update to the mailing address on file using the askDFAS online tool! This request requires correct answers to the validation questions presented on the ticket.

Note: the askDFAS tool for retirees to update their address online is still

available.

See all the tools available, along with direct links to each tool and simple instructions for using them on our new askDFAS Online Tools webpages.

Find out more here: [<https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>]

Get Tickets from VetTix

Vet Tix * provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.

Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently-serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA.

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

There are no Discounts & Coupons to show We are pleased to offer great savings (in some cases 70% off) on nationwide travel and entertainment through our partnership with Member Deals. Get access to exclusive deals on theme parks, Broadway and Vegas shows, movie tickets, hotels, and much more. Be sure to visit often. With a constantly growing catalog of new products and discounts, Member Deals truly has something for everyone!

**Thank you for your Service !,
Eastern Region Military Affairs Committee**



©2024 Phi Beta Sigma -KUS | Phi Beta Sigma -KUSP.O. Box 341Willingboro, NJ 08046us

Like

Tweet

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®