

# Fort Knox Retiree Bulletin



## Message from the Garrison

Team Knox hopes you – both military Retirees and Families – are doing well! Fort Knox is going strong, and we continue to be a major hub of activities. Allow me to provide some of the more significant highlights over the last several months.

First, we have mobilized several hundred Soldiers in recent months. Our very own V Corps deployed to Europe in March as part of the nation's commitment to reinforcing our European allies and deterring aggression against NATO. In the spring, the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command – an Alabama National Guard unit – deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

While on the subject of units, Fort Knox continues to be an attractive place for future mission sets. Our world-class training ranges, ability to operate independent of the external energy grid, central geographic location, quality infrastructure, capacity to absorb additional missions, and supportive surrounding communities routinely put us on the short list of consideration. No new news to report at this time, but I mention this because decision makers at the highest levels recognize the value of Fort Knox and the many ways the Army post can continue to effectively support the National Defense Strategy.

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### Special Point of interest

Fort Knox Retiree  
Appreciation Day

October 14 2022

0900-1400

As it comes to new construction, we broke ground in December 2021 on a \$69 million Van Voorhis Elementary School replacement. The new school will be built to DoDEA's 21st Century Facilities specifications, which entails spaces that are flexible, adaptable and that facilitate multiple modes of learning. The new VVES should be open for the 2025–26 academic year.



We received National Defense Authorization Act funding earlier this year to build a new Child Development Center as well. It will be located adjacent to the Patton Museum and in the footprint of the former Crittenberger School at the corner of Chaffee Avenue and the Dixie Highway overpass. So, it will rightly be situated near some of our most population dense neighborhoods.

The construction contract is expected to be awarded between July and September of 2023, with the build likely taking another 2–3 years after that to complete. We are very excited about this project, as it means we'll eventually have a facility commensurate with our world-class CDC staff – thus, providing a top-notch quality of life for our children needing child care services.

Our last major construction project encompasses the Digital Air–Ground Integration Range, or DAGIR, at Yano Range. This range was originally used for tank live–fire but will soon be able to support synchronized and simultaneous ground maneuver and fixed/rotary wing training. Essentially, the range will allow troops to better “train like we fight.” The \$45 million project should be complete in late 2022, and it is sure to attract units from across the world, especially with it being the only DAGIR east of the Mississippi River.

Again, we have a lot of large–scale and exciting activity at Fort Knox. If you haven't been to your post in a while, please come out and see it. There's no need to wait until Retiree Appreciation Day. We continue to have a wide array of MWR and AAFES activities available, so please take advantage of those as well. To peruse our offerings, I encourage you to download the Digital Garrison app on your cell phone. Just go to the Apple App Store or Google Play, type “Digital Garrison” in the search bar, and select “Fort Knox” as the installation. There's a virtual treasure trove of information at your fingertips.

In closing, I want to be sure you know just how valued and appreciated you are to the service members and military Families serving and sacrificing today. We are privileged to follow in your footsteps, and we are also grateful for how you have helped pave the way through your own service and sacrifice to make the military, and its way of the life, a wonderful and rewarding journey. Simply put, we are indebted, and it is my sincere hope that we make you proud.

God bless, and on behalf of Team Knox, we look forwarding to seeing you soon at “Our Nation's Gold Standard Army Home!”

Colonel Lance O'Bryan Garrison Commander, Fort Knox

# Medical Activity Commander

Greetings Heroes.

As mentioned last year, I am Colonel Caryn Vernon, the Commander for Fort Knox Medical Activity. Since my last message to you, we welcomed a new Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Cruz. He comes to us from Fort Bliss, Texas with an abundance of experience and we are excited to have him as a member of the team. We have also welcomed a new Deputy Commander for Nursing Services, LTC Alexis (Alex) Martinez who is joining us from Human Resources Command on Fort Knox. He is a seasoned leader with immeasurable experience in his field.

If you have been to Binter Pharmacy lately, you will notice a big change to our entrance. We have added handrails and a new walk way into the pharmacy. This happened due to your feedback and we truly appreciate that. This change will make the walkway safer for everyone entering the pharmacy, especially during the winter months in snowy and icy conditions.

We have also started our transition under the Defense Health Agency. This transition will allow for standardization of procedures and practices across the entire Military Treatment Facility enterprise. It is an exciting time for us as we complete this transition will continuing to serve our beneficiaries.

If you've visited a Fort Knox facility since mid-March 2020, you've surely noticed we continue to operate within the constraints of the pandemic's challenges. Our medical staff continues to rise to this challenge with strength of character, by making unprecedented adjustments to protect our patients' safety and health. As an example, masks are required to enter our medical facility and COVID testing continues in our front parking lot for Active Duty Service Members and their Families if requested and referred by a Provider. Although COVID testing for Retirees is not offered on Post, we encourage you to check with your Primary Care Provider if you need testing.

Your free services continue to remain available. Lab and radiology services are offered on a space available basis at the Ireland Army Health Clinic for retirees. Binter Street Pharmacy also remains open for retirees. You will notice that we have added a few chairs to the Binter Pharmacy lobby for those beneficiaries that need to sit while waiting in line, but we request that this be the exception rather than the rule so the chairs remain available for those that truly have a need. You can still run errands or wait in your vehicle until we send a text message that your prescription is filled.

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A list of all local network providers is accessible for your convenience on the TRICARE website <https://Tricare.mil>, or the Humana Military website <https://www.HumanaMilitary.com/>.



*Binter Street Pharmacy*

Additionally, we host an enlightening Tricare for Life Orientation meeting quarterly in Building 853, Room 101 (on Ireland Ave, off of Spearhead Division Ave), to sign up call (502) 624-2580.

We don't want to miss an opportunity to stay in touch! Have you visited our Facebook page lately? Relevant information such as training closures are posted as updates, as well as other timely information. Search 'Ireland Army Health Clinic' in your Facebook search bar. Don't forget to click 'Follow'!

Please continue to stay safe by getting a vaccination or booster and following CDC guidelines for social distancing, wearing masks where appropriate, and washing your hands. On behalf of the entire team at the Ireland Army Health Clinic, we wish you good health this year as we see the end of the pandemic in sight. We appreciate our Soldiers for Life and Families who continue to serve our nation.

Because We Care,

COL Caryn R. Vernon

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# Fort Knox Retiree Council Chairman

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The Fort Knox Retiree Council continues their work to support the Retiree Communities in each of the five states, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia, we represent. This year has continued to present many challenges to all of us. As Chairman of the Retiree Council, I want to ensure you that we have continued our work in support of Retirees in our Region. We have continued with our quarterly meetings, albeit by teleconferencing. The Council has seen more and more interest as we stand up local State Councils. Kentucky has now joined Ohio and West Virginia in having organized local Retiree Councils to better represent their states. The Kentucky State Council plans on meeting in March, June, September and December. Check the KY Facebook page for exact dates and times. West Virginia had its own Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) this year at Camp Dawson. They are planning a larger one in 2023. Check the WV Facebook for more details. I urge all Retirees to contact your local representatives and to get involved in your local activities. There is much more individual states can do to support Retirees and the more involvement the better the chance of a positive outcome. Your state representatives have continued to work with your State Legislatures to press for more support for both Veterans and Retirees it appears that all five states again have pending legislations, that if passed will benefit our community.

This years' annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD), is scheduled for Friday 14 October 2022. The plan to date is to return to the pre-COVID format at the Saber and Quill. This will include several briefings. We would like to have opening comments from the CG, or his representative, the Commander Ireland Army Health Clinic, Casualty Benefits, TRICARE and the VA. There will again be representatives from many organizations and groups in the vendor section as in prior years. We are also planning a luncheon with someone from the Garrison staff providing the latest update on the Fort Knox Community.

Just a reminder, you can find the Retiree section on the Fort Knox home page. Just enter <http://www.knox.army.mil/>. There is a direct link from that page to the Retiree section. You can also visit any of our six Facebook sites.

The Council believes that a lot of useful information will be available to educate Retirees of their benefits. All the Council members will be at the RAD and will be easily identifiable. If you have any questions or suggestions, please pass them along to one of them. If you want to talk to your state representative a list will be available for you. The Council is looking forward to seeing you in October and to continuing to work for your best interests as Retirees.

I want to extend to all of you my invitation to attend the RAD and to become more involved in the work of the Council. We all benefit from the hard work. I look forward to seeing many of you in October 2022.

Soldiers for Life!

Charles D. Estes, Brigadier General, US Army, Retired

## Notes from the RSO

Retiree Appreciation Day is fast approaching. This year we are back at Saber & Quill on Friday, 14 October 2022 from 0900 until 1400. Lunch will be available and the cost is \$15/per person. Flu shots have been requested and if they are available, there will be a dedicated area set up for it. We will have a variety of vendors from all over to provide helpful information. AAFES and the Commissary will be offering some great discounts, as well as chances to win some fantastic giveaways. There will also be a historic tour of Fort Knox. You will be able to sign up for tours leaving at 1000, 1100, 1300 or 1400. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Fort Knox Retirement Services Office (RSO) is located in White Hall, building 1384, room 103. Operating hours are 0730-1130 and 1230-1600, Monday through Thursday and 0830-1130 and 1230-1600 on Friday. To contact us, call 502-624-6419 /7236 /1280 /3114 or [usarmy.knox.rso@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.rso@army.mil) We are here to assist with questions regarding benefits and entitlements to retirees and their Family as well as active duty Soldiers and their Family as they prepare for retirement. We can help with Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) elections before and after retirement. We counsel and assist survivors of retired Soldiers with completing the necessary paperwork to make a claim. We can help you understand the difference between Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC).

If you are a “Gray Area” Retiree and you are nearing (or have reached) your 59th birthday, you can download a request for a retirement application at:

[www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements](http://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements)

Or e-mail your request for an application to: [usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@army.mil)

Of course, you can still request an application by calling 502-613-8950 but you may get faster results by downloading or e-mailing.

DFAS offers myPay and all Retirees are encouraged to use it. It is a convenient way to check your pay accounts, make changes and obtain financial documents. Annuitants are also invited to set up an account. If you don't already have one, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and click “Forgot or Need Password” to have a temporary password mailed to you. When you receive your password, return to the myPay home page and click “Create an Account” to get started. If you have any problems, contact the DFAS Centralized Customer Support Unit toll-free at 1-888-FAS411 or 1-888-332-7411.

Gail Harding, Retirement Services Officer

# ID Card Facilities

## Kentucky

- ❖ Louisville 502-413-4210 or 502-607-2675/2677
- ❖ Bowling Green 502-607-2213/2212
- ❖ Frankfort 502-607-1660/1177
- ❖ Lexington 502-607-2444
- ❖ Burlington 502-607-3551
- ❖ London 502-607-5461/5469
- ❖ Richmond 502-607-2741/2759
- ❖ Ashland 502-607-2122/2112
- ❖ Fort Campbell 270-798-5288
- ❖ Bluegrass Army Depot 859-779-6936
- ❖ William Henry Fort RTC Greenville 502-607-7572/7920/7921

## Indiana

- ❖ Franklin 317-247-3300 ext 87706
- ❖ Gary 800-237-2850 ext 88015/88010
- ❖ Ft Wayne 260-3231/3173
- ❖ Muncie 800-237-2850 ext 88603
- ❖ Crane 812-854-1536
- ❖ Terre Haute 812-877-5478/5594
- ❖ Indianapolis 317-212-4430; 317-964-7183
- ❖ 317-247-3300 ext 87629/87627/77183
- ❖ South bend 317-247-3300 ext 88808/88856
- ❖ Peru 765-688-3909/2488
- ❖ Bloomington 812-332-4491 ext 87414/87410
- ❖ Shelbyville 317-247-3300 ext 88301
- ❖ Evansville 317-247-3300 ext 87311/87312
- ❖ Camp Atterbury 812-526-1499 ext 61813
- ❖ Lafayette 317-247-3300 ext 87525



## Ohio

- ❖ Columbus 614-336-7087/7339; 614-692-3141; 614-492-3156
- ❖ Wright Patterson AFB 937-257-6981
- ❖ Cincinnati 513-221-0138 ext 100
- ❖ Mansfield 419-520-6563
- ❖ Toledo 419-868-4225
- ❖ Springfield 937-327-2186
- ❖ Cleveland 216-522-5135
- ❖ Lima 614-336-6249
- ❖ Vienna 330-609-1095
- ❖ Dayton 937-257-3346 ext 0

**The Fort Knox ID card center is in building 1384, room 103. Hours Monday-Thursday 0800-1030 and appointments 1100-1500. Fridays 0830-1030 and appointments 1100-1500. You can contact them at 502- 624-1526 to make an appointment. Listed above are a few locations for ID cards. Call any of the numbers listed or visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site?execution=e1s1> to locate a facility closer to you. To schedule an appointment for the Fort Knox ID card facility, go to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> and click on make an appointment.**

# RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY LUNCHEON

Oct 14, 2022

Saber & Quill

Tickets: \$15 (will be on sale at door)

Menu: Fried Catfish, Herb Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Greens, Mac & Cheese, Salad, Rolls, Apple Cobbler, Iced Tea.



# Fort Knox

## Retiree Appreciation Day

- Flu shots (if available)
- Exhibits
- Veteran Services
- Post Agencies
- Exchange and Commissary
- Prizes / Giveaways
- Historical Fort Knox Tour

1200 - 1300  
Retiree Luncheon  
*Guest Speaker*  
*Fort Knox*  
*Garrison Commander*

For more information:  
(502) 624-6419  
[usarmy.knox.rso@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.rso@army.mil)

**Friday**  
**14 October 2022**  
**0900-1400**

**Fort Knox**  
**Saber & Quill**

