



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 914TH AIR REFUELING WING
2720 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE
NIAGARA FALLS ARS, NEW YORK 14304-5000**



**MILITARY RETIREE NEWSLETTER (July – September 2021)
"STILL SERVING"**

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Status of COVID rules for Niagara Falls ARS

As of this letter, you do not have to wear a mask if you have had completed the proper vaccinations. When in crowded areas, keep your 6 ft distance
Use common sense in all cases

We, at the RAO, are glad to see you still functioning and getting through the very trying COVID era. It has been a long and tedious time and is still not completely over! Our office has been open and I congratulate the volunteers who have been sacrificing their time under stressful conditions. They are **"Still Serving"**. If anyone would like to express their appreciation to them, our phone number is (716) 236-2389. M-F, 1000hrs -1400hrs, or just leave a message.

As of this letter, Space A flying is still on hold! We do not know when it will be opened again, if at all. There may or may not be a prerequisite that you are vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine. We are waiting for HQ AMC to pass down information to the appropriate commands. If there is any desire to have a class regarding Space A Flying, let us know.

The Air Force is considering our base, along with four others to host the new KC-46 tanker. This will increase the number of AD personnel to the 914th and bring our base into the new tanker era. The new planes are supposedly a better handling and more comfortable airplane to fly than the 1950s- era KC 135. Did you ever wonder what the tail numbers on our airplanes were for? The first two usually indicate the year of production and the last two are the number of that aircraft model made that year. In the next newsletter, I will explain what the letters of the aircraft stand for.

Don't forget that the base also has rental equipment for parties, graduations and gardening , as well as campers and kayak, barbeque grills and sporting equipment

There is not much going on lately, that we can report, so this letter will be shorter than usual. Sorry! Any and all suggestions are welcome for future newsletters.

QUICK HITS

Reminders

NYS Parks (Golden Parks Program) admission is free for 62 and over with valid NYS driver's license (or non-driver ID from DMV) on weekdays and non-holiday weekends. NYS boat launches are also free with the same rules. There are also reduced fees for state-operated golf courses.

ID cards

Due to the interruption of COVID, your ID card may be about to expire or already has expired. You should check yours now because your blue ID card will also need to be changed. There is a new one that everyone is required to obtain. It is very similar to the AD one, in that it is white and also has a chip with your records. The same for dependent's cards.

From AF DEERS: Uniformed Services ID cards for retirees and their family members that expired between Jan 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 will remain valid through Jan 21, 2022. ID cards that expired before Jan 1, 2020 or after July 31, 2020 have not been extended and will not be accepted. For a listing of all ID issuing sites and appointment or walk-in information, visit <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>. The 914th ID card office is issuing new cards for retirees and dependents. Their number is (716) 236-2197. "RAPIDS APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE" is the website to schedule on line. It will probably be a few months down the road to get an appointment for retirees and dependents.

RAD 2021

The Airman and Family Readiness group along with the RAO are planning a Retiree Appreciation Day on 23 October. We will have many areas of concern to retirees available for questioning and presentations by professionals in their areas. If anyone has suggestions for their particular concerns, please let us know before then. RAO (716) 236-2389. More information to come.

Congratulations

A former RAO volunteer for over 20 years has been named veteran of the month for July through Chris Jacobs office. Major Arthur Cline (USAF Retired) has been a stalwart of the Retiree Activities Office at Niagara Falls ARS for over 20 years and recently resigned (due to COVID19) to relax and be with his wife, Harriet. I think he deserves this award. He, and his wife, have given over 40 years of their lives to serving their country!

If anyone would like to nominate a veteran for this award, please call Chris Jacob's 27th Congressional District office (716) 631-7610.

Blue water Navy update

Any "blue water Navy" Vietnam veteran who has had their request for certain healthcare benefits denied, contact the VA for changes that have been recently made granting you this earned benefit!

FUN PAGE

Church muses

"Please place yor donation in the envelope along with the deceased person yo want remembered"

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday aftnoon.

First graders' proverbs

Never underestimate the power of..... termites.

Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....you have to blow your nose.

Yogisms *

I just want to thank everyone for making this night necessary.

Even Naploeon had his Watergate.

It ain't the heat, it's the humility.

**Not many more quotes left!*

Military wives quotes

Love is the greatest gift when given. It is the highest honor when received. *F. Weaver*

'Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile. *F Jones*

A soldier doesn't fight because he hates what in front of him. He fights because he loves what he left behind. *Author unknown*

914th AIRLIFT WING/CVR
 2720 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE
 NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-5001

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 FIRST CLASS**



Airman & Family Readiness	(716) 236-2097	IRS	800-829-1040
Base Exchange	(716) 236-2100	IT&T Services (tickets)	(716) 236-3367
Base Billeting	(716) 236-2014	Legal Aid	(716) 236-2133
Base Gym (Fitness Center)	(716) 236-2101	Medicare	800-442-8430
Casualty Assistance	877-353-6807	Pass & ID Security	(716) 236-2281
Pittsburgh Office	800-235-7780	PAX Terminal (Niagara)	(716) 236-2360
Chapel	(716) 236-2395	Retired Activities Office	(716) 236-2389
Credit Union	(716) 236-2085	RAO Fax	(716) 236-3173
Customer Service ID	(716) 236-2197	Recreation Center	(716) 236-2450
DEERS	800-538-9552	Social Security	800-772-1213
DELTA Dental	888-838-8737	Space-A Travel	(716) 236-2389
DFAS (Cleveland)	800-321-1080	TRICARE	877-874-2273
Equipment Rental	(716) 236-3511/2101	TRICARE for LIFE	866-773-0404
Express Scripts Pharmacy	877-363-1303	VA Affairs	800-827-1000
Falcon Club Café	(716) 236-2027	VA Affairs	888-VETS-NYS
Family Support Center	(716) 236-2097	VA Hospitals	800-532-8387
Ft. Drum SB	800-772-6900	VA Hospital (Buffalo)	(716) 834-9200
Ft. Drum Pharmacy	800-354-9280	Veterans One-Step Center	(716) 898-0110

