DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY GARRISON ANSBACH
LOCAL RETIREE COUNCIL
Unit 28614
APO AE 09177

IMEU-ANS-HRM

3 March 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Retirees and Surviving Spouses

SUBJECT: USAG Ansbach Retiree Newsletter – March 2015

It is Tax Time Again!

a. The yearly income tax filing season is upon us. The Katterbach Tax Center officially opened on Wednesday, 4 February, to assist active duty Soldiers, civilians as well as retirees. Operating hours are from 0900 until 1700, Mondays thru Fridays. The phone number for making appointments is 09802-83-2324. The Tax Center is located in the Legal Assistance area in Bldg 5817A in Katterbach. This area is on the second floor, above the Army Community Services (ACS) and is handicap-accessible. There is an elevator near the ACS entrance.

Our Next RAD is scheduled!

The USAG Ansbach Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is scheduled for Thursday, 21 May 2015; at the Von Steuben Community Center on Bismarck Kaserne from 1000 - 1400 (Doors open at 0900 for registration and close at 1300). Medical services include immunization shots, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmaceutical information. Representatives of the following services will attend: Customs, Red Cross, Legal Office, Service Credit Union, and your local AAFES. Representatives of the following outside agencies will attend: The Veterans Administration and DFAS-Cleveland to audit retired pay records and provide assistance. In additional, the Garrison has requested the Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt attend the event.

Our LRC is meeting. Do You Want to Attend?

The USAG Ansbach Local Retiree Council (LRC) meets quarterly to discuss retiree and surviving spouse issues. We want to make the April meeting open to all local retirees

and family members. We will have a short presentation about "Caring for your Widow While she is still your Wife", then move on to discussion about preparations for the Retiree Appreciation Day in May, and other current subjects. YOUR comments and questions are encouraged. Sound interesting? Come out and join us at the Gasthof zur Windmuele, Rummelsberger Str. 1 in Ansbach. The time is 1800 on Wednesday, 22 April 2015. The Windmuehle is located between Ansbach and Katterbach, just off highway B-14. Parking is available in front of the Gasthaus as well as on the side.

Have You Called DFAS Lately?

Did you know that there is a toll-free number at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Cleveland, IL? This is the office that manages your retirement pay and annuity pay. The number is 0800-589-1634. This toll-free number is available ONLY from a German telephone, not from a DSN phone. The number will be answered weekdays from 0800 to 1700 Eastern Time. That is 1400-2300 hours local time. Calling this number does not cost you a cent. The highest volume of calls is around paydays, so try not to call near these times. If you have pay issues or questions, please call them. Our understanding is that this is a "use it or lose it" toll-free number. That means we should use it!

Do You Know YOUR RSO?

Have you met your Retirement Services Officer (RSO)? Do you have his phone number? The USAG Ansbach RSO is Mr. Will Godard. His office is on the ground floor of the In-Processing Training Center in Bldg 5818, on Katterbach Army Airfield. If you are in Katterbach, stop by and say "Hello". His phone number is 09802-83-3303 or 3298. His cell phone number is 0170-522-9347. If you have questions, or need assistance from him, give him a call.

Information/Assistance Points of Contact.

Do you have questions about retiree/annuitant matters? Do you need assistance? Please let us know. If we cannot answer your question, we will find someone who can. Your first point of contact should be Will Godard, Retirement Services Officer (RSO). His phone number is 09802-833-301 or 09802-833-298. You can also contact your LRC President Gil Clarke at 0911-598-0560 (after 7:30 pm Mo-Fr) or email gil.clarke@t-online.de or LRC Secretary Estus Smith, at cell phone 0152-5406-8940 or email estus@live.com for assistance.

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"Nearly Everything You Want to Know About Retiring in Germany"

Does this sound interesting? Maybe there is some useful information for you? MAJ (Ret) Bernd K. Rieger, of the Garmisch area put this useful booklet together and posted it in Facebook. If you wish to look it over; just "Google" the title in the internet. It is well-worth reading.

Did Your Friends Get this Newsletter?

Please speak with your retirees or annuitant friends about this newsletter. If they did not receive it, this means they are not on our mailing list. Ask them to contact the Garrison RSO, Will Godard, and provide him with their correct mailing (or email) info. His phone number is 09802-833-301 or 298. If YOU got this newsletter, but your address has errors, please let the RSO know this also. He can make the corrections.

What Information Do YOU Need?

Do you have information needs? Is there some info about the Ansbach Community or Garrison Services that you need? Try calling the Army Community Services at 09802-83-2883. If they cannot provide the info you need, talk with your Retirement Services Officer or your Local Retiree Council. Their contact information is shown above.

What Can We Improve in the Ansbach LRC?

Do you have suggestions on what would make the Local Retiree Council (LRC) more interesting for you?
Are there issues that you feel need to be addressed that are not?
The LRC is there to assist you; your input will help us serve you better.
Would you like to become a member of the Retiree Council?
All comments or suggestions should be given to the Ansbach RSO Will Godard, the Ansbach LRC Pres. Gil Clarke or LRC Secretary Estus Smith. Their contact information is located above, under "Information/Assistance Points of Contact".

DFAS-Cleveland Mailing Address and Telephone Numbers

The DFAS-Cleveland centralized mailing-handling operation addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Defense Finance & Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 216-522-5955
Fax: 1-800-469-6559

Defense Finance & Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 216-522-5955
Fax: 1-800-982-8459

For Germany only (toll-free): 0800-5891634 (dial as shown). This number cannot be reached from a military network telephone.

When faxing correspondence to DFAS, please make sure to sign and include the last four digits of your Social Security number on all pages.