



September 2011

What's new in military retirement pay?

DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay is always striving to serve you better. We continuously work behind the scenes to improve our services and bring you new tools to manage your retirement pay. This issue of our newsletter features improvements you'll want to take advantage of in the coming weeks.

First, we're [moving your pay date forward](#) so that it always falls on or before the first day of the month, even when the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday.

Second, we'll soon start delivering an [electronic Retiree Account Statement](#) (eRAS) every month to keep you informed about your account information.

Third, we've been working to improve the way we communicate with you, and to make it easier for you to reach us with questions. Now, we have some [new ways of reaching us](#) to share with you.

Finally, in this issue you'll find detailed instructions for updating a [lost or forgotten myPay password](#) and information to help you prepare for the [upcoming tax season](#).

[Find these stories and more in the September Newsletter .](#)

Pay Date Change

A change in the law means you'll receive your September and December pay a few days earlier this year.

The 2011 National Defense Authorization Act requires DFAS to process your pay by the first day of the month. When that day falls on a weekend or national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day.

In 2011, this means your payment normally scheduled for Oct. 3 will be issued on Sept. 30 and your payment normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011.

As a result of the second payment in December, you'll receive a total of 13 pay checks instead of the normal 12 in the 2011 tax year, which may increase your tax liability.

Because Jan. 1 is always a federal holiday, going forward you'll always receive your January pay the previous December. So in 2012 and beyond, when we've fully transitioned to the new schedule, you will receive the normal 12 pay checks.

[See 2011 and 2012 Pay Schedule](#)

This change applies to retired pay, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay, Combat Related Special Compensation, allotments, garnishments and court-ordered former spouse and child support payments. It does not affect annuity payments.



Tax Information

We cannot provide tax advice, but we encourage you to speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service or your state tax authority to determine if your tax withholding will satisfy your federal and state income taxes when you file your 2011 tax return.

If you decide that you need to make changes to your tax withholding, you can do so using **myPay**, by completing a new [IRS Form W-4](#) for federal withholding, or a [DD 2866](#) for state withholding. Please mail or fax forms to:

DFAS Retired Military Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Fax: 800-469-6559

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Coming Soon: Monthly Electronic Retiree Account Statements

You asked, and we're delivering. Beginning with your Nov. 1 payment, you'll get a new electronic Retiree Account Statement (eRAS) on **myPay** every month!

Previously, we only issued a Retiree Account Statement when we made a change to your account. But we've been listening to your feedback, and we've heard your call for a monthly statement. With your new eRAS you'll always have up-to-date payment information, and you'll be able to review your account monthly and manage your pay more efficiently.

You will need a **myPay** account to view your eRAS. If you don't already have a **myPay** account, [sign up for one](#). If you know a military retiree who doesn't have one, you might be able to help them sign up as well. **myPay** is the most important tool available to you. We say this a lot because it's true. It is the official online account management system for all military members.

Because our Customer Care Representatives can't see your **myPay** account, they won't be able to view or print your monthly eRAS for you. This makes it all the more important for you to maintain a **myPay** account.

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Need Help Getting on myPay?

myPay, the official online account management system for military members and retirees, is the fastest, easiest, and most convenient way to keep your account current. If you haven't used *myPay* in awhile, or have never used it, the below instructions will help you create or log in to your account.

It's very important to make sure that your mailing address is current. If you are signing on for the first time, or if you have lost your password, your address needs to be current to receive your temporary password. If you request a temporary password and do not receive it within 10 business days, [please contact us](#) to have your address updated. You can then request another temporary password from *myPay*.

[If you've never logged in to myPay and would like to create an account:](#)

[If you haven't used myPay in awhile and you forgot your Login ID:](#)

[If you haven't used myPay in awhile and you forgot your password:](#)

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Keep Us Informed!

Life keeps you busy, so you may not always remember to let everyone know when things change. But please put DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay on the list of those you need to keep in the know.

If you've recently moved, changed bank accounts, or haven't updated your beneficiaries in awhile, be sure to review your retired pay account information to ensure that it's current. If you need to update anything, you can log in to your **myPay** account. You can access **myPay** 24/7 from anywhere in the world, and your changes will be made in just 3-5 business days!

If you're having trouble accessing your **myPay** account, you can fax or mail us your [request](#). Your change will be made in approximately 30 days. Please send requests to:

DFAS Retired Military Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Fax: 800-469-6559

To learn more about managing your account, visit our [Account Maintenance](#) web page.

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Contact Us Online

Calling isn't always convenient, and sometimes you might just want to learn a little bit more about your retired or annuity pay, so we're working on creating a stronger online presence to make it easier for you to get more information in more ways.

You can use the [AskDFAS](#) link on our homepage to submit questions specific to your account. One of our customer care representatives will send you an email to help resolve your issue.

If you have a Facebook account, you can "Like" the DFAS [Facebook](#) page and follow our posts. If you have a question about your retired or annuity pay account, you can leave a comment on our wall and we'll respond directly to you!

When you have a general question about retired or annuity pay, or just want to learn a little bit more about your pay, you can visit the [Retired Military and Annuitant pages](#) on DFAS.mil. We're always working to update it with new content and breaking news so that you can stay informed and educated.

You can also visit our website regularly, friend us on Facebook, use [AskDFAS](#) to get your questions answered, keep reading our quarterly newsletters for helpful articles, and as always, let us know how we're doing.

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Are You Ready For Tax Season?

Tax season is quickly approaching. To help you prepare, DFAS will send out 1099R tax statements, annual Retiree Account Statements (RAS) and a Retiree Newsletter in December. Please make sure we have your current email address and mailing address, so you don't risk missing any of these important documents.

Changing Your Email Address

If you have elected to receive your 1099R electronically, and your email address has changed, please update it in [myPay](#). DFAS uses your *myPay* e-mail address to send you periodic newsletters, breaking news and to notify you when your RAS and 1099R tax statements are available.

To update your email address:

1. Go to the myPay web site, and log into your account.
2. Click Accept on the Terms of Use Agreement.
3. On the Main Menu Page, find the Email Address link.
4. Enter and confirm the correct address. Be sure to select "primary" beside the email address where you want to receive pay statements and other important correspondence.
5. Save your changes.
6. Close out the screen or use the link at the top of the page in the grey bar to return to the main menu.

If you have problems remembering your login ID or password, consult the "Forgot Your Login ID?" or "Forgot or Need a Password?" link.

You can only view your most recent 1099R on *myPay*, copies of 1099Rs from previous years must be requested in writing.

Do You Still Receive a 1099R by Mail?

You can also [log in](#) to your *myPay* account and sign up to begin receiving your documents electronically. We will email you when your tax documents are available. There's no risk of anything getting lost in the mail and you receive your 1099R almost immediately after we post it to *myPay* instead of waiting for a hard copy.

If you choose to receive your 1099R from us in the mail, it's important to make sure the mailing address you have on file with us is current. If you've moved in the past year, or will be staying somewhere other than your primary residence when tax season begins, let us know so we can send your tax documents to the right place.

The quickest and easiest way to update your mailing address is to use *myPay*. When mailing or faxing us an [address change](#), please include both your old and new mailing address, along with the effective date for the new address. Additionally, please include your name, social security number, and signature with date on your request. It may take up to 30 days to process a written request.

The end of the year may still seem far away, but we recommend you start planning today so you have everything you need in January!

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