



ECHOES

Post AKO: Retirees access personnel and benefits info via DS Logon

By Marvin D. Wages, AKO Transition Chief, Army CIO/G-6

As of June 30, 2014, most retirees and family members will access personnel and benefits information held by both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs via DOD Self-Service Logon (DS Logon).

DS Logon, which is operated by DOD, allows access to multiple DOD and VA websites using a single username and password. You sign in once, and then can get to any of the connected sites and your accounts on them. DS Logon complies with federal security guidelines and provides a secure user experience.

You must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to obtain a DS Logon account. Soldiers (active duty, National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and retired), spouses, veterans and family members are eligible for DS Logon accounts.

Retirees can register using their DFAS **MyPay** account or by contacting the VA. Visit <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/help.do?execution=e4s2#retiree> for more information.

Family members' registration options include: (a) your military sponsor can request an account for you; (b) you can ask for a DS Logon account when getting your military ID card; and (c) you may go through a TRICARE Service Center. Visit <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/help.do?execution=e4s2#familyMember> for more information.

For sites not currently using DS Logon, like **myPay**, you must establish an individual username and password. **myPay** is planning to adopt DS Logon in 2014. For additional information, visit the Migration Page for retirees and family members at <https://us.army.mil/suite/page/682479> or <http://www.eis.army.mil/ako>.

Update on auto-forwarding your AKO email — you can still set it!

By Marvin D. Wages, AKO Transition Chief, Army CIO/G-6

Access to AKO email ended for retirees and family members on Jan. 31, 2014. Their access to all other AKO services will end June 30, 2014, with exception of email auto-forwarding which will end Dec. 31, 2014.

If retirees and family members did not set up auto-forwarding to commercial email accounts by Jan. 31, emails sent to army.mil addresses are returned to the sender with an error message. However, users who did not set a forwarder can still do so until Dec. 31, 2014. Until retirees activate auto-forwarding, email sent to their AKO accounts will be lost. When they activate auto-forwarding, AKO will forward any new emails received to the commercial email address provided.

Retirees and family members should activate the forwarding function in their AKO account profile as soon as possible so that no emails are missed. Retirees who are current DOD civilian employees or contractors may only auto forward their AKO email to another government email account.

If you have been using AKO as your primary email address, update all of your accounts with your new commercial email address.

If you see an account that ends in .ret@mail.mil, DO NOT USE IT. This is an error in the system the Army G-6 is trying to fix.

More information about this transition can be found at the migration page for retirees and family members at <https://us.army.mil/suite/page/AKOmigration> or www.eis.army.mil/ako.

To forward AKO email to a commercial account:

- Log into AKO at <https://www.us.army.mil>.
- Click "My Account".
- Click the "Mail Options" link under "Mail Preferences".
- Select "Forward Email (Non-AKO Account)".
- Enter forwarding email address.
- Enter forwarding address again to confirm.
- Click "Submit."

To change an email address in myPay:

- Log in to **myPay** at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.
- Click on "Email Address" and look at "Personal Email Address."
- Change the email address and click on "Primary."
- Click "Accept/Submit."