

***IMPORTANT: Do not view this information while you are on government time, government property or while using government equipment. Do not forward this information to any DoDEA or other government email account or to anyone who is likely to view it while on government time or using government equipment.***

**1. OPM has just released [three new how-to videos](#) to help federal retirees** set up and use their Login.gov credentials to access their Services Online retirement account. Services Online allows retirees to manage their retirement account online and quickly find relevant information and forms, without the need to email a request or speak to an OPM retirement specialist. In May 2022, Services Online partnered with Login.gov to upgrade to a two-factor authentication process to help keep retirees' personal information more secure. The instructional videos show, step by step, how to create a Login.gov account, link it to a Services Online account, use Login.gov credentials and two-factor authentication to sign into Services Online, and what to do if you get locked out of your account. The videos are another tool for federal retirees who prefer to use self-service options for routine retirement-related tasks. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuzWeT0b0ErD41K35lZ3Ktlx3-HmSIEua>

**2. Update on the new rules regarding the DoD Civilian Retiree ID Card.** With DoD no longer issuing Civilian Retiree ID cards or allowing previously issued cards to be used for base access, the employee SF-50 document is critical for setting up base access Overseas and Stateside. Additionally, REAL IDs cannot be used for enrolling in access at Overseas bases, so former and current employees should see what IDs their local base accepts. For a more detailed explanation of this procedure, FEAonline.org, has posted more information with additional links. <https://www.feaonline.org/sf-50-document-now-critical-to-set-up-base-access-during-retirement/>

**3. How can retirees access their SF-50 and other documents?** DoDEA Human Resources has issued guidance on how retirees can request records and documents from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). While FEA advises current employees to request and maintain their SF-50s prior to retirement, former employees can request such documents through a multi-step approach as outlined by DoDEA HR. This procedure can be found at <https://www.dodea.edu/offices/human-resources/employment-verification>

**4. German Court Ends Taxation of US Military Paychecks.** The Stars and Stripes reported last week that the German government issued a new directive that bans all its tax offices from seizing the military pay of U.S. personnel stationed in the country. The federal ruling states U.S. military and civilian personnel who arrived under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement can't have their pay taxed by Germany, regardless of their "will to return" to the United States. For years, local tax offices have garnished thousands of dollars from service members and Defense Department workers. The Rheinland-Pfalz Finance Ministry stated that this new interpretation of the law is to be applied in all open cases. According to a German tax specialist, this ruling makes clear that the U.S. military pay of those with SOFA status is shielded from local finance offices regardless of how much time they spend in Germany or whether they have special ties, such as being married to a German. Read the complete story at:

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<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2023-07-28/germany-cannot-tax-military-pay-10879833.html>

**5. Free Membership in AOSHS for New DoDEA Retirees.** The American Overseas Schools Historical Society is a non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, and exhibits historical memorabilia of the American Overseas Schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding about this unique endeavor, as well as provide the opportunity to research a significant chapter in the history of American education. AOSHS provides a free one-year membership to educators who have recently retired from DoDEA. Visit <https://aoshs.org/membership/> and click on “New Membership” at the top of the page, and check “Current Year Retiree” under “Fees and Donations.”

**6. Has your US Representative Agreed to Co-Sponsor HR 82, Repealing GPO/WEP?** More than 2.5 million people dedicated to public service, including many FEA Retired educators, have their Social Security benefits reduced—or lose them entirely—due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). House Resolution 82 (the Social Security Fairness Act) now has 288 co-sponsors. This bill would fully repeal GPO/WEP. When a bill has 290 co-sponsors it will go to the House floor for a vote. Please go to: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/82/cosponsors> to see who the 288 co-sponsors are. (Click on your State on the left hand side of the page to simplify your search.) If your representative is listed, please write him/her with your appreciation. If your representative is not listed, ask him/her for his/her support when the floor vote is taken. You may need to “cut and paste” this link in your browser, to visit the website.

**7. DoDDS Reunion draws hundreds to Omaha, Nebraska.** The 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion of DoDDS educators was held in Omaha this summer. Mini-reunions were held for different school groups, along with a well-attended opening reception. FEA-Retired sponsored a table in the “Welcome Center” to share information on how FEA-R can assist all retirees through political advocacy and financial program (through NEA-Member Benefits). Over 100 of the attendees stopped by the table to collect information, share stories and take a picture or two. Paula Jakub, CEO for American Foreign Service Protective Agency, gave an update on the Federal Employees Health Benefits program and how States are address long term care insurance across the US. Be sure to visit the DoDDS Reunion website <https://www.mydoddsreunion.com/> to see photos of this year’s event (to be posted soon), along with information on next year’s reunion (to be held in Lexington, Kentucky).

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