

Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH)

FAQ

What is the AFRH?

The AFRH is a retirement community complete with facilities and services that provides an affordable and safe place of retirement with a continuum of care for retirees in their declining years. The AFRH maintains two campus locations: Gulfport, Mississippi and Washington, DC.

Is the AFRH new?

No, the AFRH has been providing a safe haven for veterans of the DoD Armed Forces for more than 150 years. What IS new is the Coast Guard's participation in the Armed Forces Retirement Home System, which was recently authorized when President Obama signed the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 on October 15, 2010.

What does CG participation in the AFRH mean?

It means that Coast Guard retirees who meet certain eligibility requirements have the same opportunity to reside at the AFRH, on a first come first served basis, that our DoD counterparts do.

Why do I care about CG participation in the AFRH System?

The AFRH provides a safe and affordable place of retirement for our veterans. Coast Guard participation in the AFRH System and assurance that our retirees have the opportunity to reside in the AFRH is a great way to honor the shipmates that came before us and built today's Coast Guard. Not only that, but the future is not written in stone and it could be that we will one day want to join our shipmates in residing there. It is also an honor to be eligible for a benefit that the other branches of service have had for so many years; this change now provides Coast Guard veterans parity with the other armed forces.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Coast Guard veterans are eligible to become AFRH residents if their active duty service in the military was at least 50 percent enlisted or warrant officer and they are:

- *Veterans with 20 or more years of active duty service and at least 60 years old, or*
- *Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability, or*
- *Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to injuries, disease, or disability, and who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay, or*
- *Female veterans who served prior to 1948.*

Is there a cost?

Since its establishment, a majority of the AFRH operational funding has come from the service members themselves. A permanent trust fund was established nearly 150 years ago, and has been fed by monthly active duty payroll deductions and fines and forfeitures imposed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The current payroll deduction for all active duty enlisted and warrant officers is 50 cents per month. The monetary support provided by the active duty enlisted warrant officers of the Armed Forces allows retirees the opportunity to reside in the AFRH for a monthly resident fee that is predetermined based on a percentage of his/her total income.

Could my spouse reside with me at the AFRH?

Yes, if your spouse is eligible to reside at the AFRH in his or her own right.

If my spouse does not qualify for AFRH residency in his/her own right, can he/she reside with me at an AFRH campus?

No. AFRH residency is only authorized for qualified retirees/veterans.

Can I visit an AFRH Campus?

Yes, you may schedule a tour by contacting the Public Affairs Office at 800-422-9988 (prompt 1).

Can I volunteer at the AFRH?

Yes! To discuss questions about the volunteer program, please send an e-mail to Volunteer@afrh.gov or call 202-730-3410.

How does a retiree apply to reside at AFRH?

Simply print out the application materials, with checklist, from the documents page at www.afrh.gov, or contact the Public Affairs Office at 800-422-9988 (prompt 1) for the application materials.

Is there a waiting list?

Currently there is a waiting list at both the Gulfport, MS and Washington, DC locations.

If approved, when can a retiree move in?

If approved, the retiree will be placed on a waiting list based on the chronological date of the approval.

How long is the wait?

An exact time frame is difficult, but currently the waiting time may be in excess of 2 years.

What happens if a retiree is offered a room and the timing does not work for him/her?

If a retiree is placed on the waiting list and offered a reporting date but cannot report, he/she will retain his/her place on the waiting list. He/she will not be bumped.

If a retiree refuses a room, does he/she go to the bottom of the list? How often can an individual refuse? Is there a cost associated with refusal?

A retiree will not go to the bottom of the list unless he/she requests to. A retiree may refuse as often as he/she is asked, and there is no cost associated with a refusal.

Can a retiree bring his/her vehicle?

Yes

Can a retiree come and go as he/she pleases?

Residents may come and go as they please.

Can a retiree's family visit?

Families are encouraged to visit!

Where can I find more information about the AFRH?

You can visit the AFRH website at www.afrh.gov or contact the Public Affairs Office by calling 800-422-9988.