

MARINE CORPS RETIREMENT PLANNING GUIDE

THE MONTH OF RETIREMENT

"This is it — the final month of your Marine Corps career. All of your preparation now comes together. Your mission is to execute the final outprocessing steps, secure your benefits, and step confidently into civilian life."

Mission Critical Notice

At this stage, there's no room for missed details. Your focus is on **execution, verification, and closure**. Every checklist item must be completed before your EAS/retirement date.

Phase 1: Final Outprocessing & Clearance

Outprocessing Execution

- ☐ Attend final **IPAC/S-1 out appointment**
 - ☐ Turn in completed **checkout sheet** with all required signatures (CIF, Finance, Legal, Medical, etc.)
 - ☐ Pick up official **DD-214** — review line by line for accuracy (name, SSN, awards, MOS, character of service)
 - ☐ Obtain copies of **retirement orders** and clearance record
 - ☐ Verify all **leave forms (DA 31/PTDY)** are processed correctly
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Identification & Access

- ☐ Pick up **Retiree ID card** through DEERS/RAPIDS
 - ☐ Ensure CAC is deactivated and removed from local systems
 - ☐ Download or save any final files from **.mil** accounts before access ends
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Phase 2: Benefits Activation

Pay & Finance

- ☐ Confirm **retirement pay account** with DFAS
 - ☐ Track **first retirement pay deposit** (usually 30–45 days after EAS)
 - ☐ File final **travel voucher** (terminal/PTDY leave reimbursement) through Smart Voucher or unit finance
 - ☐ Update MyPay with personal email and contact information
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Healthcare & Insurance

- ☐ Confirm **TRICARE enrollment** via [Tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil)
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- ☐ Enroll in **FEDVIP dental/vision** at [BENEFEDS.com](https://www.benefeds.com) (within 60 days)
 - ☐ Enroll in **VGLI** through [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) (within 120 days if keeping life insurance)
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VA Benefits

- ☐ Track **VA Disability Claim** status on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or eBenefits
 - ☐ Respond promptly to any **C&P exam requests**
 - ☐ Upload supplemental documents if requested
 - ☐ Save claim confirmation number and keep personal records
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Phase 3: Family & Transition Support

Household & Relocation

- ☐ Confirm **Household Goods (HHG) shipment** is scheduled through [DPS.move.mil](https://dps.move.mil)
 - ☐ Inspect quarters or housing for clearance (if in base housing)
 - ☐ Coordinate move-in or lodging at new location
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Family Readiness

- ☐ Conduct **final family transition meeting**
 - ☐ Review updated **family budget** with retirement pay and VA benefits
 - ☐ Ensure spouse employment or education plans are on track
 - ☐ Enroll children in new schools if relocating
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Success Metrics & Progress Tracking

- ☐ DD-214 picked up and verified
 - ☐ Retiree ID card issued
 - ☐ DFAS retirement pay account active
 - ☐ TRICARE and FEDVIP coverage confirmed
 - ☐ VA claim filed and status tracked
 - ☐ HHG shipment scheduled and quarters cleared
 - ☐ Family transition plans executed
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Critical Resources & Contacts

- **IPAC/S-1** – Final outprocessing, DD-214, retirement orders
 - **DFAS** – Retirement pay account, MyPay
 - **DEERS/RAPIDS** – Retiree ID cards
 - **TMO/DMO** – HHG shipments
 - **Tricare.mil** – Healthcare enrollment
 - **BENEFEDS.com** – Dental/vision enrollment
 - **VA.gov** – Disability claim status and benefits
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Common Pitfalls to Avoid

✗ Mistakes

1. Not reviewing DD-214 thoroughly — mistakes cause lifelong problems
2. Forgetting to update MyPay with personal contact info
3. Missing FEDVIP or VGLI enrollment deadlines
4. Assuming retirement pay will start immediately
5. Neglecting family relocation or spouse employment needs

☑ Success Strategies

1. Triple-check all documents before signing
2. Keep digital and physical copies of everything
3. Maintain close communication with DFAS and VA
4. Treat your final out as a mission — no missed steps
5. Celebrate with family; they've been part of this journey too

Final Thoughts

This is the moment — your **last mission as an active-duty Marine**. With discipline and precision, you've prepared for this. Now execute your final tasks, secure your benefits, and step confidently into your next chapter.

Semper Fidelis — your service is complete, but your legacy continues.

Next Phase

Final Phase: Transition complete. Begin your next mission as a Marine Veteran.

Document Control

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