

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 3 September 2009. It was the 250th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL James E. Hyers	CSM Gene Nelson
LTC Clarence Collins	CSM James W. Harris
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	SGM Sam MacMaster
CW4 Bob Cooper	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
	1SG Ken Prier
	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

MEMBERS ABSENT

BG Douglas Smith	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
COL Bob Bunting	SFC Bernett Jergenson
COL Stan Heath	SFC Ralph Reed
COL Emil Zimmerman	Mrs Marie Wilkins

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mrs. Martha Frausto, LAHC	Ms. Sheryl Lowell, PAO
Ms. Evy Bludsworth, DMWR	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFES

2. CSM Nelson called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Guests – Ms Karen Hayes, Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) discussed how to submit issues and having a Retiree group for the AFAP being conducted 21-22 Oct. Mr. Robert Bridgewater from Garrison Customer Service explained the importance of responding to the annual customer service assessment being conducted in September. Participation will help to get feedback that will help improve services on Fort Rucker.
5. Old Business – None.
6. Committee Reports:

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a. Public Affairs – SGM MacMaster provided a calendar of events. Highlights included Soldier Show and the 11 Nov Veterans Day ceremony. Also, this is the last council meeting for SGM McMaster.

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported that : (1) Congress will return from the month-long August recess on September 8 to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY10 Defense Authorization Bill. (2) The US Court of Appeals has ruled in favor for a group of widows who sued the government, asserting that otherwise-qualifying widows who remarry after age 57 are entitled to both SBP and VA survivor benefits, without any offset. (3) There won't be any 2010 COLA for Social Security, retired pay, or SBP annuitants. A closer look at the COLA law reveals a “negative COLA carryover” effect for next year.

c. Health Care – CSM James Harris reported the LAHC will close at noon on 18 Sep for Organization Day. There will be a health care consumer meeting at 1000 on 15 Oct. Retiree issues and concerns can be presented at the meeting. Ms Martha Frausto discussed there were more cases of the H1N1 flu diagnosed in the area. Also, an acute respiratory care clinic has been established to confine contagious infections.

d. Community Activity – LTC Collins reported there will be no meeting in September.

e. Commissary – Mr. O'Meara reminded everyone of the case lot sale 18-20 Sep. Holiday merchandise will arrive in Oct, the first shipment of turkeys will arrive 19 Oct and holiday candy has begun to arrive.

f. Retiree Voluntary Support– No report.

g. PX – Ms. Rutledge discussed the semi-annual baby sale, NCAA kickoff at the PX, and specials on a variety of products and pizza specials from Anthony's Pizza. Also, a buddy list event on 11 Sep. Registration for the Fort Rucker buddy list and sign up to win a \$50 AAFES gift card is 0900-1530. AAFES holds it's “Still Serving” Event 18-20 September which will be rerun during the RAD weekend. AAFES will hold RAD sales events at all facilities, post-wide, 30 Oct - 1 Nov (i.e. Samsung appliance sale, washer/dryer give-a-way, and other sales events).

h. Golf Course – Mr. Bob Cooper reported that there will be a Aviation Museum fundraiser on 18 September.

i. Equestrian Center –No report.

j. Outdoor Recreation – No report.

k. Bowling Alley – 1SG Prier reported on the attempt at a world record of games bowled during a 24-hour period. The Boston butt sales are no longer available.

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1. RAD – LTC Bost-Pittman asked for 10 volunteers to meet at The Landing by 0730 on 30 Oct, to assist with the RAD. CSM Nelson requested all available council members report at 0730 as requested by LTC Bost-Pittman.

7. Advisors' Comments.

a. Ms. Evy Bludsworth reported free tickets to the Soldier show can be picked up at the ITR office. The new "Landing Zone" club will serve dinner from 1600-2100 hours and the Starbucks Coffee Shop (inside The Landing Zone) will be open seven days a week.

b. Mr. Mitchell reported 100 soldiers from the Co B 46th Engineer Battalion will return from deployment in Iraq on 3 Sep and welcomed back home for a ceremony held at the Aviation Museum.

c. COL Hyers reported the Honor flight will arrive at Dothan airport 26 Sep and the 98th Army band will play for the 91 vets on the flight. The last flight will be April 2010, and currently over 300 applicants are scheduled for the flight .

8. New Business – Nothing to report.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 1 Oct at 1130.

Approved via-email

BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

Carolyn Bost-Pittman
LTC, Retired
Secretary


YVETTE J. KELLEY
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander

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