

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 5 November 2009. It was the 252nd 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

BG Douglas Smith	CSM Gene Nelson
COL James E. Hyers	CSM James W. Harris
LTC Clarence Collins	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	ISG Ken Prier
CW4 Bob Cooper	SFC Bennett Jergenson
Mrs Marie Wilkins	TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF
	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	ISG Frank Ellerkamp
COL Emil Zimmerman	SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Ruiz-Isales, LAHC	Ms. Sheryl Lowell, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFES
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. CSM Nelson called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) – appreciation was expressed to everyone who supported the RAD, including PAO for providing information to the public, the Commissary and PX for providing gifts. The After Action Report indicated The Landing is a good place to conduct the RAD in the future.
5. Old Business – None.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Public Affairs – Ms. Lowell discussed upcoming November events, including the Veterans Day ceremony, Christmas parades, and the AAAA Chili Cook-off.

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b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported Congress approved MOAA Federal Charter. The Charter provides federal recognition of MOAA's service mission and ensures that MOAA leaders in all states can serve on state-level veterans' advisory panels. The GAO ruled that the Defense Department failed to follow rules in awarding the new TRICARE contract for the South region (currently held by Humana Military Healthcare Services) to the United Health Military & Veterans Services. Certain military widows are eligible to receive full payment of both VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and their military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities.

c. Health Care – COL Ruiz-Isales reported approximately 563 flu shots were given at the RAD and approximately 600 attended the health fair. She also stated the LAHC will be closed the day after Thanksgiving. SGM Harris discussed the 15 October meeting he attended and highlighted the issue of cancelled appointments. COL Ruiz-Isales commented that phone lines had been added so customers will not have to wait more than three minutes. The second floor renovation of LAHC has been delayed until Feb 2010. The pharmacy will be renovated and expanded to further enhance service. Patients are generally satisfied with LAHC.

d. Community Activity – Mr. Laster stated the November meeting will be rescheduled; however, the upcoming events are the Thanksgiving Day Feast, Family Spaghetti Dinner and the Christmas Lighting.

e. Commissary – Mr. O'Meara discussed the Commissary operating hours for the holidays as the open on Veterans Day from 0900-1600 hours, 21 and 23 November from 0900-1900 hours, and closed 26 and 27 November. Turkeys are in and limited to two per customer.

f. Retiree Voluntary Support– Open

g. PX – Ms. Rutledge discussed the sales during the month of November, including the early bird sales before and after Thanksgiving. There will be a three day Veterans Day sale, 10-12 November from 1000-1600 hours.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Bob Cooper reported no October meeting and the golf course is in good shape.

i. Equestrian Center – CSM Harris reported 21 November is an open horse show (turkey trot).

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson reported the first fall turkey hunt for the Wounded Warriors is now an annual event. Gun hunting season begins on 20 November; therefore, people should avoid the area during the hunting season.

k. Bowling Alley – ISG Prier reported Extreme Bowling continues from 0800 to 1100 hours at the bowling alley and a discount of one dollar is available at these times.

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1. RAD – LTC Bost-Pittman and Mr. Moore reported the RAD went very smooth, and the suggestion to continue to have the RAD at The Landing should continue.

7. Advisors' Comments.

a. Mr. Laster discussed the 14 November Youth and Challenged Deer Hunt/Turkey Shoot.

b. Mr. Mitchell discussed the Enterprise Gate closure and the 14 December PCS ceremony for CSM Felder.

c. COL Hyers discussed there will be two more honor flights on 17 and 24 April 2010. These will be the last local flights for WWII veterans.

8. New Business – Council openings.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 3 December 2009 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

--Original Signed--

YVETTE J. KELLEY
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander