

COMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 May 2006. It was the 212<sup>th</sup> 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

CCL Stanley S. Heath	CSM Charles E. Frye
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	CSM William Jolley
COL James E. Hyers	1SG Jackie Ray
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)
LTC James R. Mellish	SFC Joseph N. Barnes
CSM James W. Harris	SGM Sam MacMaster

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Ch	COL Charles Block (USMC)
COL William E. Crouch	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec

GUESTS

None

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. George Steuber, Dep Garrison Cdr  
COL Suzan Denny, LAHC  
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR  
Mrs. Deborah Seimer, AG  
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO  
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary Officer  
Ms. Lori Yerdon, PAO

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1130 and welcomed everyone.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – None.

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs -- Ms. Yerdon reported the PA office is relocating to the Soldiers Service Center, building 5700. Their telephone numbers will remain the same.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported that the House Armed Services Sub-Committee approved provisions that would bar any increases in fees for TRICARE at least through the end of 2007. No comments were made concerning the Pentagon-proposed changes in pharmacy copays. The pharmacy copay issue will be addressed by the full Armed Services Committee in May.

c. Health Care -- A VA optometry clinic is now located in the Clinic. Renovations continue at the Clinic and the arrival of added seating is expected soon. Appointments for TRICARE patients are still very limited and civilian providers are recommended due to limited "space available" appointments. COL Denney's change-of-command occurs 27 June at 0800 at Howze Field.

d. Volunteers Program -- SFC Barnes reported that SPC Kraig Pakulski is Volunteer of the Month for May. SFC Barnes stated he takes the volunteer hours reported by council members and gives them to Mrs. Gaydos so she can monitor them. The only time he monitors volunteer hours is during the RAD.

e. Consolidated Club System -- (LTC Collins deferred to Mr. Laster.)

f. Commissary -- Mr. O'Meara reported that on 5-6 May, the Tide NASCAR car will be at the Commissary and the Boy Scouts will hold a hot dog sale on 5 May. On 12 May, Kellogg's will host a promotional sale; 12-13 May is the next case lot sale. Persons shopping for cases only should use the warehouse door; all others will use the front door. Pet Day will be on 20 May with dog food companies running specials and promotions.

g. PX -- Special promotions featuring Whirlpool appliances, furniture and a Mother's Day Jewelry sale will all take place during May. A pet show takes place 12 May at the Four Seasons store.

h. Golf Course -- COL Heath reported the red course irrigation project continues. Completion is expected by the end of May.

i. Equestrian Center -- COL Heath reported the first Open Horse Show takes place this weekend starting at 1000. The trials last month had riders from Canada, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Fuel prices are keeping entrants from attending.

j. Outdoor Recreation -- 27 May is "Day at the Lake" with free admission and free swimming for everyone. The Lake's swimming area and the Aviators' Landing pool both open 27 May.

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k. Bowling Alley – Nothing to report.

l. RAD – Mr. Moore offered suggestions for buffet meals. Due to projected costs, he was asked to obtain information on “served meals” as an cheaper alternative.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. Mr. Steuber reported the Garrison budget released and it is approximately \$11 million short. The Garrison could be out of operating dollars by July. A hiring freeze is in effect and there will be no spending without approval. If additional funds are obtained, the number one item on the budget is a new roof for the PX. A ban of all cell phone use except for “hands free” will be phased in soon. Fines will start at \$50.00 per offense. On 28-29 July, the “Above the Best BBQ” competition will take place on post. At least six bands will provide entertainment. Over \$50,000 in prize monies will be awarded to competition cooks in both professional and amateur categories. A softball tournament, “poker run”, car and bike show also take place during the weekend.

b. Mr. Laster reported the following: the RV park at the Lake is scheduled to be finished by 31 May. It features 48 total slots with many of them designed for “pull-thru.” Funding is available now for six more cabins at West Beach in addition to the six already going in at Singing Pines. Two new “Bass Tracker” type boats have been ordered for rental at the Lake. A new price structure is effective this year for the lake area. There will be no admission fee for the park but it will cost \$3 to launch a boat. Annual boat launch passes will increase by \$12 per year. A \$2 fee for persons 13 and older and \$1 for persons under 13 will be charged to swim at the beach. Season-long swim passes good for the Lake and at the Aviators’ Landing pool are available too. The water slide at the Lake should be operational by 27 May. Life jackets are no longer required at Lake Beach. Plans are being discussed to repave the West Beach parking lot.

Irrigation repairs are still on-going at the golf course. Over \$116,000 was released recently for repairs to the cart paths. A Mother’s Day brunch will be offered at the Landing from 1000-1330. Beginning 15 May, the Center library will open on Mondays from 1000-1700. DMWR is recruiting “Mystery Shoppers” and interested persons should call 255-1898 for more details.

c. Mrs. Seimer reported the CAC card mass reissue was basically complete.

7. New Business – An open letter from COL(R) Block to the Council was read discussing the recent web site developed for Ft Rucker retirees. Specifically, the issue of answering emails directed to the RSO being read and responded to in a timely manner was mentioned. Currently, the RSO shares the email address established for the Retiree Council’s use. An email address that forwards items requiring the RSO’s response is needed. A motion by CSM(R) Frye and seconded by COL(R) Heath to request a separate email address for Retirement Services to assist in answering questions more effectively.

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8. General Comments – A letter to the council chairs from Mr. John Radke, Chief, Army Retirement Services was read thanking them for their leadership and submission of issues to the Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council at their April 2006 meeting.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 1 June 2006 at 1130.

Approved via email 30 MAY 06

BOB BUNTING  
COL, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 30 MAY 06

CHARLES E. FRYE  
CSM, Retired  
Co-Chairman

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LLOYD M. ROGERS  
SGM, Retired  
Association Secretary



WILLIAM S. CARESE  
COL, Aviation  
Garrison Commander

MAY 31 2006