

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 Jan 2007. It was the 220th 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 Bob Bunting, Co-Chair:	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM William Jolley
LTC Clarence R. Collins	SFC Bernett J. Jergenson
LTC James R. Mellish	1SG John J. McCracken (USAF)
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	1SG Jackie Ray
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	SFC Joseph N. Barnes
COL James E. Hyers	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	SGM Samuel V. MacMaster
-----------------------	-------------------------

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Michael Kaminski, CDR, USAAMC	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. George Steuber, Dep Garrison Cdr	Ms. Lori Yerdon, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Mrs. Deborah Seimer, AG
Mr. Mark O'Meara, Commissary	Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES
	<i>Col Scott Larex, Garrison Commander</i>

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1140.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business - Selection of a guest speaker and dates for the 2007 RAD.
5. Committee Reports.
 - a. Public Affairs - Lori Yerdon provided a calendar with the following items of interest:
 - (1) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony, 11 Jan 07 at the Post Theater

Retiree Council Minutes, January 4, 2007

- (2) Branch CSM Change of Responsibility, 22 Jan 07 at the Aviation Museum
- (3) LTG Ellis D. Parker Awards ceremony, 24 Jan 07 at the Aviators' Landing
- (4) AAAA Dinner and Awards ceremony, 1800, 24 Jan 07 at the Aviators' Landing

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported that Congress on its final day in session passed some very important legislation including: Passing a continuing resolution funding government agencies, this expires 15 Feb 07; freezing the 2007 rates at 2006 levels for Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors; imposing a \$1,740 annual cap on Medicare payments for outpatient speech and physical therapy that had been scheduled to take effect in January; banning protests at military funerals. Additional items passed included an authorization of \$600 million to repair/replace Gulf Coast VA facilities damaged by Hurricane Katrina and funding 22 other major construction projects, requiring the VA to notify veterans of any theft/misuse of personal information, and to provide credit monitoring services and identity insurances in the event of a data theft/compromise; authorizing six Parkinson's Disease research, education and clinical centers and two Multiple Sclerosis centers and strengthening support for homeless veterans.

c. Health Care - Nothing to report.

d. Volunteer Program - The Volunteer Award Luncheon will be held at the Aviators' Landing sometime in March. The Volunteer Council will meet on 17 January to select Volunteer of the Year.

e. Consolidated Club System - Renovations are still on-going in the Club and going well. The Prime Rib night will be the 1st Saturday of each month, starting 3 Feb 07.

f. Commissary - Mr. O'Meara stated the Commissary had a good holiday period with the customer count above 1000 for the Oct, Nov, and Dec.

g. PX - Ms. Snodgrass also reported the Exchange had a great holiday period. AAFES had numerous sales on Christmas items and for fall and winter clothing. They were also introducing Simply Perfect sales for the home from 5-18 January. The Garden Center is now being restocked and getting ready for warm weather.

h. Golf Course - The Gulf State Retired and Military Golf Tournament will be held 14-16 May 07. For more information contact Bill McClure at 255-2011.

i. Equestrian Center - The Center will hold the Spring Horse Trails 3-4 Mar 07.

Retiree Council Minutes, January 4, 2007

j. Outdoor Recreation - SFC Jergenson reported the new game warden building was officially opened for business. Fishing is good and patrons are catching quite a few fish. Deer season was not going well this year with kills below the number from last year. The turkey season should be good this year and it begins in March. He also reported that the new hunter tracking system was working great.

k. Bowling Alley - Mr. Steuber reported that the New Year's Eve party was a great success and the families that attended really enjoyed themselves.

l. RAD - LTC Mellish nothing to report.

6. Advisors Comments -

a. COL Larese highlighted changes coming to Lake Tholocco. They are trying to create a "state park" type facility by constructing 12 new cottages in the Singing Pines area, finishing road paving to the camping area and remodeling existing cottages on the lake's east side. The BHA rate for the Fort Rucker area has increased by 8%, the largest increase in recent years. Expect rental property rates to be affected in the surrounding communities. Changes are coming for the PX and Commissary parking lots, with spaces added for GEN, COL and CSM/SGM parking along with changes in the handicapped parking with parking for expectant mothers. Also, new construction is ongoing on post with the building of the new post Headquarters and 70 new officer quarters on Red Cloud Road and that wood buildings are coming down. He wanted to make sure that folks stay out of the construction zones because of more danger for folks to get hurt in those areas.

b. COL Kaminski said construction of the pharmacy's new window to help during peak times is still on track. Paving of the parking lot has caused some problems with parking especially for the handicapped, but will be continuously monitored. There are still flu shots available. Negotiations for the VA to work out of the Clinic are still on going.

c. Mr. Moore asked for the Council's decision on who to request as guest speaker for this year's RAD along with primary and alternate dates for the event. The council selected 26-27 Oct as primary dates and 19-20 Oct as alternate. The Council also would like for COL(R) John Radke from the DA-RSO to be invited as the guest speaker. Mr. Moore will prepare a request for the CG's concurrence and invitation.

7. New Business - None

Retiree Council Minutes, January 4, 2007

8. The meeting adjourned at 1240. The next scheduled meeting will be held at 1130, 1 Feb 07 at the Aviators Landing.

Approved via-email

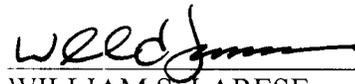
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By

BILL JOLLEY
CSM, Retired
Secretary



WILLIAM S. LARESE
COL, AVN
Garrison Commander