

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 3 January 2008. It was the 232nd 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)

MEMBERS PRESENT

COL Charles A. Block	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-chair
COL James E. Hyers	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	MSG John J. McCracken, Jr
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	Mrs. Marie Wilkins
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	1SG Jackie Ray
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG James K. Prier
LTC James R. Mellish	SFC Joseph Barnes
CDR James E. Cobb	SFC Ralph E. Reed
MAJ Jack K. Swinehart	SFC Bernett Jergenson

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Larese, Garrison CDR	Mrs. Gail Braley, AG
COL Kaminski, LAHC CDR	Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO	Ms Diane Snodgrass, AAFES
PAO Representative	Commissary Representative

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1130.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business - None

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs - Provided a calendar of events. Highlights included the 17 January Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) celebration and Black History month events. The Army Flyer's next issue will provide a "Year in Review."

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b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported: The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) learned that the President intends to veto H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 because a provision in the bill could make Iraqi assets held in U.S. banks vulnerable to lawsuits. A 9.9% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors is scheduled for January 2008 if Congress does not change the law. If Congress does not find the money to extend the fix, an 11% cut will kick in 1 July 2008. The DOD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care released its final report on 20 December. The report said the relatively low health fees paid by military retirees vs. the growing cost of military health benefits are “out of step with overall trends in the U.S. health care system” and “unfair to the U.S. taxpayer.” Under the task force’s plan, fees would be stratified in three tiers, based on the amount of the member’s military retired pay. Most retired officers with families covered under TRICARE prime would pay an annual enrollment fee of \$780 for 2008, with the fee rising steeply to \$1,800 a year by 2011. Pharmacy co-payments will go up as well.

c. Health Care - COL Kaminski reported false information is on the internet about the shingles vaccine. He verified that most people over 75 get shingles and that the age group for shingles is 50-75. The Army does not have a policy but the Center for Disease Control recommends everyone over 60 should get the vaccine. The Pharmacy is exploring the possibility of installing a drop box for dropping off prescriptions. Additionally, the TRICARE service center moved to the area where the dining facility was formerly located.

d. Volunteer Program - Nothing to Report

e. Consolidated Club System - They are accepting early reservations for the Valentine dinner theater.

f. Commissary - Will be open the Tuesday after the MLK holiday.

g. PX - Offers 50-70% discount off winter clothing and the spring inventory has arrived. AAFES added Office Depot to the list of stores it can now order from.

h. Golf Course - The new manager, Mr. Chris Doggett, arrived and the construction project on the new wing is 25% complete.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath stated the Center will have the Spring Horse Trials on the 1-2 March 2008.

j. Outdoor Recreation - The Outdoor Expo will be 23 February at Lake Tholocco.

k. Bowling Alley - New concourse furniture has been ordered for seating at the lanes.

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1. RAD - The After Action Review is due to the Garrison Commander.

6. Advisors' Comments -

a. Mrs. Braley reported the new ID requirements beginning March 2008. The ID card section will close 27-28 February for systems upgrades.

b. Mr. Laster reported new progress on the club house renovations (locker rooms, carpet, etc.).

c. COL Larese reported on the 30% BAH increases for Soldiers

7. New Business - None

8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 7 February 08 at 1130.

Approved via-email

BOB BUNTING

Colonel, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

CHARLES E. FRYE

CSM, Retired

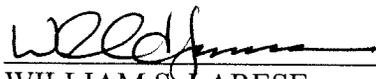
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

Carolyn Bost-Pittman

LTC, Retired

Secretary



WILLIAM S. LARESE

Colonel, Aviation

Garrison Commander

JAN 31 2008