

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 April 2009. It was the 245th 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	CSM Gene Nelson
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM James W. Harris
COL James E. Hyers	SFC Bennett Jergenson
COL Emil Zimmerman	EOC Fred Griffin, USN
LTC Clarence Collins	Mrs. Marie Wilkins
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	
CW4 Bob Cooper	

MEMBERS ABSENT

BG Douglas Smith	SGM Sam McMaster
SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF	1SG Ken Prier
	SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. George Steuber, DGC	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mrs. Deborah Seimer, DHR	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mrs. Gail Braley, AG	Mrs. Jennifer Seda, AG
Mr. Mark Wonders, PAO	Mrs. Martha Frausto, LAHC

2. COL Bunting 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 – Mr. Wonders provided a calendar of events. Highlights included the Birthday Ball, "Lakefest", and the "Year of the NCO" activities. A speaker's bureau will be formulated for this event. There will be an NCO induction on 16 April with the SMA attending. The "Lakefest" will be 23 May.

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported H.R. 1804 would increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance paid to military widows currently affected by the offset of VA survivor

benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. Under current law, this \$50 monthly allowance increases to \$100. H.R. 1804 raises that amount to \$95 monthly for 2010, and by varying amounts increases to \$345 monthly. House Budget Committee's draft FY2010 Budget Resolution hopes to address veterans' health care, concurrent receipt, repealing the SBP-DIC offset, TRICARE fees, pay raises and more. Its language carefully avoids making any promises (except for VA funding), pending receipt of the President's final budget. The new Administration won't deliver its budget until the end of April—two weeks after the deadline. Committee leaders included full funding for VA programs, plus a "reserve fund" to allow for potential improvements to military and VA health care and progress on eliminating VA compensation offsets for disabled retirees and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants. The good news is that there is a limitation on the reserve fund to reform the formula Medicare uses (and TRICARE follows) to set provider payments. Meaning, Congress plans positive action to reverse the current law that will otherwise cut Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors by 20% as of next January.

c. Health Care – Mrs. Frausto reported that a Women's Health Fair, to include educational classes will be held at the clinic on 13 May (Wed) from 0800-1200 in Room V-130.

d. Voluntary Support Program – No report.

e. Community Activity Center – LTC Collins and Mr. Laster reported on the 18 March meeting. Overall sales were up in February and profits are up. On 7-8 March, had two consecutive \$2,500 nights at the Hi Rise. The Children's Dinner Theater went well but the Adult Theater did not. The Easter Breakfast will be from 8:00-9:00 and 10:00-2:00 for a price of \$9.95 and \$16.95 respectively. Mother's Day Brunch will cost \$16.95. The Dawn Patrol renovation will be completed 5 August and the Grand opening will be the end of August.

f. Commissary – Mr. O'Meara reported the commissary will be closed Easter Sunday. A case lot sale will be held 8-10 May, and cigarette tax complaints will be addressed. EOC Griffin asked about hours for Veteran's Day. The Commissary will be open on Veteran's Day.

g. PX – Mr. Cooper commented on the need for good squeegees to clean vehicle windows at AAFES gas stations.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Cooper reported intramural will be 5-7 May, and the Retiree Golf tournament is 13-15 May.

i. Equestrian Center – COL Heath reported there will be an open horse show on 25 April.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson reported Soldiers and Retirees made up 25% and 15% respectively of the recent turkey hunt's participants. Due to the high volume of rains recently and their impact on local bridges and roads, the flood system in the surrounding area was discussed. COL Bunting stated a hearing will be held in Ozark on 23 April to consider changing Alabama's dove hunting season (Resolution for County Commission).

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k. Bowling Alley – Mr. Laster reported Boston Butts are still available at the bowling alley, the first Friday and Saturday of each month.

l. RAD – LTC Bost-Pittman will work with the RSO on the RAD. The RAD date is 30 October 2009.

6. Advisors' Comments.

a. Mr. Laster, reported the ITR trip to Biloxi, MS leaves at 0600 and returns 0200 the next morning. The trip visits two casinos. Enough participation must be received to plan trips of this sort.

b. Mrs. Seimer reported the SSN will be taken off of ID cards at renewal. This procedure started 10 Jan 2009 and will commence for retirees in 2010.

c. Mrs. Braley introduced Mrs. Seda as her replacement at retiree council meetings.

d. Mr. Steuber reported a possible delay on the proposed 1 May start for civilian vehicle passes (low force protection) at the gate due to a 60 day holdup on the contract.

7. New Business – COL Hyers has helped coordinate Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. for WWII veterans with the first one on 9 May. Congressman Bobby Bright will go as a guardian.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 7 May 2009 at 1130.

Approved via-email

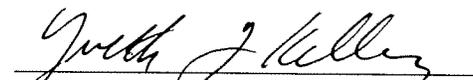
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