

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 July 2009. It was the 248th 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 Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Sam McMaster
CW4 Bob Cooper	1SG Ken Prier
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Stan Heath	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
COL Emil Zimmermann	SFC Bernett Jergenson
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	SFC Ralph Reed
LTC Clarence Collins	

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Yvette Kelley, GC	Ms. Sheryl Lowell, PAO
Mr. George Steuber, DCG	Mrs. Martha Frausto, LAHC
CSM Robert Felder, Garrison CSM	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFES
Mrs. Jennifer Seda, AG	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1132.

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

4. Guests – CMSgt Jeffrey D. Helm, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the CG, AAFES, presented a status on AAFES locally and worldwide. He covered locations of stores, items and services offered, and programs available to patrons. He specifically mentioned the possibility of furniture sales coming to Ft. Rucker since there is space and authorization for it here. He also mentioned increasing the size of the "Toyland," if feasible. He reminded everyone that AAFES stores match civilian prices as long as the items are similar (not required to match exactly). If the difference is under \$10, cashiers can take care of it themselves.

Retiree Council Minutes 2 July 2009

5. Old Business – None.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Public Affairs – SGM McMaster provided a calendar of events. Highlights included Freedom Fest, Customer Appreciation at Lake Tholocco, Oktoberfest and the US Army Soldier Show.

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported the House had approved their version of the defense bill but the Senate has not. An initial comparison of the two submissions shows multiple differences. The GI Bill transfer site allowing service members separating/retiring after 1 August 2009, to give their GI Bill benefits to dependents is now open. As of 1 July, military members, spouses and college-age youth are now guaranteed in-state tuition where they reside or are stationed. The FY2010 defense bill authorizes additional Army Soldiers but the current baseline budget does not reflect the increase.

c. Health Care – The ramp to the VA Clinic at LAHC is finished.

d. Voluntary Support Program – No report.

e. Commissary – Mr. O’Meara reminded everyone of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday hours and reported that the stray hawk previously trapped in the warehouse was now gone.

f. Community Activity Center – Mr. Laster stated the club renovations continue on schedule and the club would reopen with a new name on 28 August.

f. PX – Ms. Rutledge discussed the PX’s grand re-opening on 17 July at 0900. There will be a ribbon cutting and giveaways. The store will also recognize AAFES’ 114<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with specials and sales on 25 July.

g. Golf Course – Nothing to report.

h. Equestrian Center – Nothing to report.

i. Outdoor Recreation – Nothing to report.

j. Bowling Alley – Nothing to report.

k. RAD – Ms. Rutledge reported an anonymous vendor donated a washer and dryer for a door prize. The PX will also set up a table by its main entrance to give away complimentary gift bags to retirees. The price for this year’s Command Dinner increased to only \$13.80.

Retiree Council Minutes 2 July 2009

7. Advisors' Comments.

a. COL Kelley highlighted the new Allen Heights Community Center opening. Since Freedom Fest will be held 3 July at its new location along Andrews Ave, the Faulkner Gate will open at 1600 to help with traffic. This is Mr. Steuber's last meeting; he is moving to take a similar position at Ft Benning, GA.

b. EOC Fred Griffin, a member of Congressman Bobby Bright's Committee of Veterans and Military Advisors, requested topics of concern to pass on to Congressman Bright.

8. New Business – Nothing to report.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1238. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 6 August 2009 at 1130.

Approved via-email

BOB BUNTING  
COL, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson  
CSM, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

Chris E. Moore, RSO  
for Carolyn Bost-Pittman  
LTC, Retired  
Secretary

  
YVETTE J. KELLEY  
Colonel, Aviation  
Garrison Commander