

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 September, 2010. It was the 261st regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

BG Douglas Smith	CSM Gene Nelson
COL Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
COL Emil Zimmermann	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
COL James Hyers	1SG Ken Prier
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	SFC Ralph Reed
LTC Clarence Collins	SFC Bennett Jergenson
CW4 Bob Cooper	TSGT Bill Bieber, USA
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

MEMBERS ABSENT

-None-

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Patrick N. Denman, LAHC	Mr. Justin Mitchell, DGC
Ms Janice Sullivan, DFMWR	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Jim Hughes, PAO	Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. CSM Nelson opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Mrs. Karen Hayes from the Army Family Advocacy Program (AFAP) requested Retiree Council participation for the upcoming October AFAP conference.
5. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
6. Old Business – COL Bunting explained that one of the functions of the Retiree Council was to be a conduit between the Retirees and the Command Group.
7. Committee Reports:
 - a. Public Affairs – CSM Nelson reported he is getting to know Enterprise by visiting the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber felt we needed to get the word out about the

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upcoming Retiree Health Fair. Enterprise will have a Retiree picnic on 14 October from 1100-1400 at Johnny Henderson Park and anyone can attend.

b. Legislative Affairs - Congress is in recess. The inflation rate is below 1%, therefore, there will be no COLA increase in social security or retiree checks.

c. Health Care - CSM Harris reported that the flu vaccine is not in but is expected anytime. The pharmacy will be closed on Labor Day. The pharmacy now has a drop box for old medications except narcotics. There will be a Healthcare Consumer Meeting on 14 October, 1000 hours at LAHC. COL Denman, LAHC Cdr, reported on a major campaign to collect money from third party sources to get credit for paying deductibles. The beneficiary will get a green card to present when visiting LAHC. This process will allow LAHC to get money back to provide better services at the facility. COL Denman also reported that LAHC will partner with VA to share resources (i.e. mammography). The VA grand opening (2nd floor) will be held at 1000 on 3 September.

d. Community Activity – LTC Collins reported that there has been no meeting since mid-July. The next meeting is scheduled for October. COL Bunting met with the Enlisted Wives Club president and reported there was a lack of support for the club.

e. Commissary- SFC Reed reported on the case lot sale 10 September and gift certificates for the RAD. Mr. Bobby Ward, a commissary employee has moved to a new job in Germany.

f. Retiree Voluntary Support - Open

g. PX – Mr. Escobar introduced himself as the new AAFES store manager. He discussed the end of summer bash, a free movie screening at the theater, and an event on 3 September at the Game Stop. Hispanic Heritage month kicks off 17 September with free food samplings, food samples from local restaurants, vendors and concessionaires, piñata for the kids, etc.

h. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper reported the last meeting was held on 15 July and the next is 6 September. He also reported that golf cart rentals have increased, the new grill is serving food and the skylights have been installed. Intramurals will be 4-6 September.

i. Equestrian Center –ISG Prier reported that Horse Shows will be 4-18 September and that there is furniture stored in the barn for sale. Mr. Mitchell explained the reason the furniture was stored in the barn (Hotel furniture-IHG) was because there was no other space. The furniture will be for sale at a later date to make \$5,000 for the NAF. The sale will be announced for Soldiers, Families and Retirees before announcement of the sale to the outside.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson discussed that a boating certificate is needed for boating, and new construction for cabins are in progress on East beach. The cabins at West Beach are at full occupancy most of the time. The Parcours Lake (LAHC) will be filled with fish

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in approximately two years. The fall turkey hunt on 23-30 October will be part of the Wounded Warrior program and one day will be set aside for Wounded Warriors.

k. Bowling Alley – SMS Woodruff reported she is continuing to work on suggestions on how to benefit Fort Rucker. SMS Woodruff bowled a 628 in the bowling tournament.

l. RAD – Mr. Moore sent the newsletter to the printer and distribution to approximately 32,500 Retirees begins next week. The next health fair IPR is 1000, 20 September at LAHC. Mr. Moore will brief the Garrison Commander about the RAD on 16 September. The newsletter will be forwarded within Mississippi by COL Zimmermann. LTC Bost-Pittman will provide oversight for 10 volunteers participating in the RAD from the Retiree Council.

8. Advisors' Comments.

a. Ms Janice Sullivan, DFMWR, reported on the free jazz concert 1200, 7 September at The Landing and the 24 September Oktoberfest.

b. COL Patrick N. Denman, LAHC Commander, discussed the upcoming VA grand opening and reported that VIPs and the media will be present to include Congressman Bobby Bright. COL Denman emphasized the need to bring your green card each time you visit the LAHC in reference to the third party insurance collection and medical recovery program.

c. Mr. Robert Bridgewater, customer service office, reported that Retirees are the largest group to send in ICE comments.

d. Mr Mitchell discussed the Change Team initiative which is a culture change on ways to do a job better at USAACE. The Change Team is a USAACE initiative that consists of committees searching for ideas to do everything better.

9. New Business – None.

10. EOC Fred Griffin discussed the 17 September POW/MIA day at Troy cable office in Ozark, the support for the POW/MIA license tag support for a \$5.00 fee and the Ozark chapter DAV fundraiser Bar-B-Que on 13 September on Roy Parker Road and Highway 23.

11. COL Bunting discussed potential nominees for the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council membership. The last council meeting before the RAD is 7 October.

12. COL Hyers reported that the 5th and last Honor Flight has 35 veterans scheduled and there are still nine more on the waiting list. General Crutchfield will meet this group at the Dothan Airport on their return.

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13. The meeting adjourned at 1300. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 7 October, 2010 at 1130.

Approved via-email

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COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

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CSM, Retired
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