

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 February 2012 at The Landing on Ft. Rucker. It was the 276th 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

COL Bob Bunting
LTC Ray Collins
CW4 Bob Cooper
Mrs. Marie Wilkins

CSM James Harris
SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
SFC Bernett Jergenson
SFC Rickey Jones
TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

MEMBERS ABSENT

LTC Ray Collins

CSM Gene Nelson
1SG Jack Kehler
1SG Ken Prier
SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL James Muskopf, Garr CMD
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Ms. Shari Guy Exchange
Mr. Terry Ford, Commissary

LTC Powell, LAHC
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR
Mr. Jim Hughes, PAO

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130 and opened the meeting with prayer.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Please submit a brief summary (typed or legibly handwritten) of your comments with your name immediately after meeting adjournment so that they can be included in the report.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Public Affairs – No report.
 - b. Legislative affairs - CW4 Cooper reported on the increase in Aid and Attendance rates for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person for assistance, and the possible changes to military malpractice immunity. He reported on the

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and streamlined process for wounded warriors, and the online e-Benefits network for processing claims.

c. Health Care – LTC Powell briefed attendees and encouraged increase use of the online pharmacy. He stated that Red Cross volunteers would be set up in a yet to be determined location to assist Retirees, veterans and authorized dependents in registration. He revealed that Lyster was awarded the highest rating available (Level III) for NCQA, which recognizes “Excellence” in technology. Those in attendance saluted the staff and command for their efforts and commitment. Changes and updates affecting Lyster can be found on the website www.rucker.amedd.army.mil. CSM Harris reported that two physicians had been selected for the VA clinic and one has been hired. He further revealed that the O/R renovation project design had been submitted and approved by the Corps of Engineers and construction is due to be complete by end of the FY.

d. Community activity – No report

e. Commissary – Mr. Ford announced that groundbreaking for the new commissary is on track and that there was a management change in the deli/bakery. He announced a case lot sale scheduled in May 2012 and explained the need for special orders for cases of chicken and ground turkey due to unexpected shortages potentially caused by patrons buying in bulk to support off post businesses. He also encouraged attendees to visit the website www.commissaries.com.

f. Retiree Volunteer Support – TSGT Bieber reported that the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans was having a Valentine’s Day dinner at Po Folks’ in Enterprise.

g. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper reported on increased use of the golf facilities and that renovations to the course and facilities continue.

h. Exchange - Ms. Guy presented Black History month sales and food court specials at the Exchange. She revealed that the Black history Exchange “Kick-Off” event will feature a special appearance by COL Herbert Carter of the famed “Tuskegee Airmen,” and announced the transfer of Mr. Escobar to another Exchange in Europe.

i. Equestrian Center – No report.

j. Outdoor Recreation –SFC Jergenson reported that 11 total cabins are now available at the lake for rental and highly recommended members of the council utilize this great resource. No hunting accidents have occurred this year and controlled burning in the vicinity of Highway 27 would take place this month. In an effort to thin the population, free hunting permits will be issued 1 May - 1 Sep 12 for wild hog and coyote hunting. All hunters must be registered and have taken the hunter’s safety class.

k. Bowling Alley – No report

l. RAD – Mr. Moore requested recommendations for a speaker during the upcoming RAD. COL Bunting suggested acquiring a speaker that was familiar with military and retiree healthcare

and healthcare benefits. An update will be provided.

5. Advisors' Comments. The COL Muskopf announced that vehicle registration has "gone away" for Fort Rucker and most military installations. A Rapid Gate scanning device is now in place for access using ID or CAC cards. A report on the reduction of traffic accidents in the Commissary and PX parking lots due to the marketing campaign for accident reduction was not addressed.

5. New Business. SFC(R) Jones has accepted an offer with the VA Regional Office in Montgomery and will not be able to continue recording duties. A volunteer is needed immediately. Please notify CSM Nelson or COL Bunting of your willingness to serve in this valuable position.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next meeting will be 1130, 1 March 2012 at The Landing.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared by:

Rickey L. Jones
SFC, Retired
Recorder

---Original Signed---

JAMES A. MUSKOPF
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander