

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 May 2013 at The Landing on Fort Rucker.

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

BG(R) Douglas Smith	COL(R) Bob Bunting
LTC(R) Ray Collins	MAJ(R) William Van Hoesen
CW5(R) Scott Johnson	CW4(R) Bob Cooper
CSM(R) Gene Nelson	CSM(R) James Harris
CSM(R) George Evans	CSM(R) Jerry Seimer
SMSGt(R) Jean A. Woodruff, USAF	SFC(R) Bennett Jergenson

ABSENT

1SG(R) Jack Kehler	Mrs. Marie Wilkins
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ADVISORS PRESENT

COL James Laterza, LAHC CDR	Mr. Justin Mitchell, Garrison Deputy CDR
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Don Walter, AAFES	Mr. Markel Lindsey, DECA

VISITORS

Mrs. Rachel Golson	Mr. William R. Willett
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1. COL(R) Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130 and opened the meeting with prayer.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
3. Please submit your name and a brief summary of your comments immediately after the meeting to 1SG(R) Kehler so they can be included in the report.
4. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs – CSM(R) Nelson reported on a special veteran's program hosted by Dauphin Junior High School in Enterprise. To honor veterans, one of the History teachers had two WWII veterans as guest speakers to the entire 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at the school. The program lasted about two hours and included a special flag folding program and a display of military weapons. It was well received by all the students and guests.

b. Legislative Affairs – CW4(R) Cooper reported on the scrapping of a controversial new medal for personal not physically present on the battlefield. He also reported on Alabama HB 19, which would go into effect October 2015 and provides tax exemption for disabled persons not to exceed \$20,000 of assessed property value. There is a committee formed for the purpose of amending that bill to exclude veterans from the Bill's cap. Additional information reported included Alabama veterans waiting approximately 352 days for their VA claims to be investigated. A letter has been sent to Sen. Sessions requesting action to reduce the backlog of 10,367 Alabama VA claims.

c. Health Care – CSM(R) Harris reported he attended the Health Care Consumer meeting at LAHC on 18 April. He stated the pharmacy will move to a temporary area this summer and will eventually move to a different and larger area in the Clinic later. There will be no loss or interruption of service, and the relocation to the eventual new area will occur by summer 2014. COL Laterza cleared up some misunderstandings about pharmacy A, B, and C tickets.

d. Retiree Volunteer Support – No report.

e. Community Activity – LTC(R) Collins reported on selected items from the @Ease magazine.

f. Commissary – SMSGT(R) Woodruff reported on case lot sales being impacted by funding cuts. Special orders may be necessary due to a lack of Commissary space. She also reported that even outdated coupons may be used up to 6 months and are collected by the installation. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would set up a more centralized collection point or points for coupons.

g. Exchange – SMSGT(R) Woodruff gave a report on exchange services.

h. Golf Course – CW4(R) Cooper reported on up-coming tournaments and activities.

i. Equestrian Center – No report.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC(R) Bennett reported that turkey season was over and 61 birds had been taken. Hunters are currently preparing for the fall hunting season.

k. Bowling Alley – No report.

l. RAD – Members were encouraged to begin now to look for and secure door prizes. Our speaker has been selected from the National Association of Uniformed Services and will be funded by that organization.

## 5. Advisors' Comments.

a. Mr. Mitchell reported about the many good things going on at Fort Rucker. This year Fort Rucker won the Army Community of Excellence (ACOE) Gold Medal award for the first time ever. This hard-won distinction places Fort Rucker as the best Army installation in the world. He also reported on the recent DOD school accreditation and their exceptionally good

results...”perhaps record-setting.” At the lake, Fort Rucker has a special pier and bass boat designed for persons with disabilities. This year, Wiregrass communities rather than Fort Rucker, will host Freedom Fest on 3 July.

b. Mr. Lindsey reported on current sales and activities including a sidewalk sale on 17 and 18 May. The September case lot sale will is cancelled due to sequestration. He also reported on the success of Miss Water Mellon visiting the commissary as a promotional activity.

c. Mr. Laster reported on the Blue Course closing at the golf course due to unexploded ammunition issues. He also reported that the new golf pro was selected from Guntersville, AL and should start in about two weeks. The lake opens 18 May and the pool opens Memorial Day weekend.

d. Mr. Walter reported on Exchange activities currently going on at the local store and also on future events for the month of May.

6. New Business – None.

7. Old Business – None.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1230. The next meeting will be 6 June 2013 at the Landing.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting  
COL, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson  
CSM, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Prepared by:

Gene Nelson  
CSM, Retired  
Co-Chairman



STUART J. McRAE  
Colonel, Aviation  
Garrison Commander