

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

1. The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 5 August 2004 at the Aviators Landing. This was the 192nd scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

2. Member present, absent, advisors, and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, Except as indicated)
PRESENT

COL William E. Crouch , Co-Ch	CSM Charles E Frye, Co-Ch
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM William Jolley
COL James E Hyers	SGM Andrew Rivers, Jr.
COL Charles A Block (USMC)	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers
LTC James R. Mellis	Association Secretary
CDR James E. Cobb	SMSGT Jean woodruff (USAF)
CDR James E. Cobb	SFC Ralph Reed
	SFC Joe Barnes
	SSG Fred Spiker

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Richard M. Johnson Unexcused	SGM Terry Wilkins Unexcused
COL Bob Bunting	1SG Jackie Ray

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Susan Denny, Commander, USAAMC
Mr. Wendell Noyes, Deputy Garrison Commander
LTC Marcus McDougald, DPS
CSM Joseph P. Moodt, Garrison CSM
Mr. K. R. Carver, Acting AG
Mr. Will Newman, RSO
Mr. Tim Laster, DFCA

GUESTS

Mr. Gary Puckett, Golf Course Manager

3. The meeting was called to order at 11:35 AM by Colonel Crouch, who introduced CSM Moodt and Mr. Puckett. Colonel Denny was delayed, due to Organization Day at the hospital.

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

5. Old Business – None

6. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs – No report.

b. Legislative Affairs - Colonel Hyer reported that the House and Senate offices are in recess at this time, and not much business is going on until their return. He stated that the Air Force pharmacies are reducing the stock of prescription drugs, currently being stocked. Colonel Crouch added that the House and Senate have both passed a new Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and both plans will be reviewed by the Conference Committee for resolution.

c. Health Care – CSM Rivers reported the hospital will provide all the services for the RAD, however, the audio exam will not be provided due to the noise in the hallways preventing a correct reading on the audiometer. Colonel Denny will provide a flyer that outlines the changes on TRICARE. The new number for the TRICARE service center is 1-800-444-5445. Changing the classification of the hospital to a clinic has caused name changes for some of the clinics. Upon visiting the USAAMC, new color coded signs will assist visitors with locating appropriate clinics. The downsizing has caused a loss of providers, along with summer rotation. There is an open enrollment season for Medicare Part B, until 31 December 2004. There will be no penalty before December 31st.

d. Volunteer Program - SFC Barnes reported the Volunteer-of-the-Month for August is Syndee Meacham and will be recognized on 10 August, at 10:30 AM, Post Theater. Also, voting for the Volunteer of the Month will now be conducted on a monthly basis. The Fort Rucker Work Fair will be on 25 August, 8:30 to 12:00, with several contractors in attendance.

e. Consolidated Club System – Colonel Block stated that the club system only lost \$6,000 in June, which is far less than in June 2003. The food sales are profitable, however, the decline in bar sales is causing a loss.

f. Commissary – SFC Reed reported a “Case Lot” sale on 17-18 September. Halloween candy will be stocked starting in August. On 13 –14 August, the NCO-EM Wives will be having a Hot Dog sale outside of the Commissary.

g. PX – SFC Reed reported the Fall & Winter Catalogs are in at a cost of \$5, with a \$10 coupon provided inside the catalog. The PX will match the price on school supplies from any store in the area. Patio furniture is on sale at 25 to 50% off, in order to clear space for Christmas stock. The Class Six store is now stocking boutique wines at prices ranging from \$20 to \$135 per bottle. The Charlie’s food annex, in the PX mall, is now carrying “low carb” salads. Burger King is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the military, by awarding prizes to military personnel only.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Puckett reported there were, only, eight holes that had not been adopted under the “Adopt a Hole” program. New grass is on the White course and the Blue course will open on Labor Day weekend. Private carts are being allowed on the course after a \$48 registration fee and \$2 per visit. Registration from August 2004 to March 2005 will start at \$186.50. This includes green fees and \$2 off on cart rental. The Snack Bar has been renovated along with some good menu items. Operating hours on weekdays are 10:00 to 2:00. On weekends and holidays the snack bar opens from 6:00 to 3:00. There is a very good breakfast menu served at reasonable prices. The dates for the ProAm are 1 – 3 October. The Commanding General’s Challenge Match is a monthly feature and there was a record 87 entrants for July. The last match is scheduled for 29 October and it is hopeful that some of the retirees visiting for the RAD will participate.

i. Equestrian Center – Colonel Heath reported an Open Horse Show Saturday, 14 August, and the last one will be 9 October after the horse trials on 2 and 3 October.

j. Outdoor Recreation – CSM Frye reported the hunting regulations was the topic for discussion at the last meeting. Another pontoon boat has been ordered for delivery in September.

k. Bowling Alley – SSG Spiker reported the bowling alley is starting to make money. There are plenty of open spaces for bowling teams. Tuesday night is “Two for One” and “Burger Night.” Bowling towels or bowling bags are distributed, according to the number of games bowled. Currently, good quality shoes are on sale at half price.

l. RAD – LTC Mellish reported the RAD dates have been changed to 29 and 30 October. The hospital cafeteria may be closed at this time and arrangements will be made for lunch, on these days.

7. Advisors Comments –

a. Colonel Denny stated that downsizing the hospital to a clinic status will cause a personnel reduction. The cafeteria must be closed no later than 5 November, possibility as early as 1 October. The use of venders is being considered for meals, however, a definite number of patrons must be established. The surgery clinic and the surgical ward were closed on 16 July, upon the departure of the surgeon. The loss of ten providers caused 200 appointments a day to be eliminated. It is hopeful that by the end of August, everything will be back to normal at the clinic. Internal Medicine, Pediatric, and Womans Health Clinics have all been combined into one Family Care Clinic. The services provided at the RAD Health Fair on 29 October will be the same, except for audio screening. Colonel Denny provided advise in exercising caution to prevent heat injuries and to drink plenty of fluids during the warm season.

b. Mr. Laster reported the pools and swimming at the Lake will close on 7 September and there is time remaining to book a pool party. Two people at Fort Rucker have won grand prizes. In the Army Wide Sweepstakes.

c. Mr. Carver stated that the AG, Mr. Hensley, will be assigned to HQ TRADOC effective 15 August.

8. New Business – Colonel Crouch excused the advisers and the Council discussed the providing of food for the retirees at the RAD Health Fair. He, also, asked each member to volunteer in assisting LTC Mellish at the RAD, especially during the Health Fair and to sign up for a definite time period.

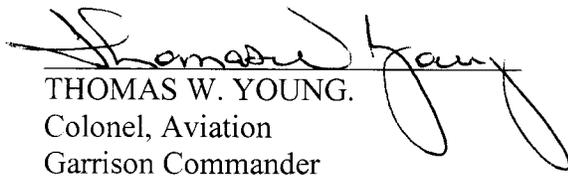
9. Co-Chairman’s Comments –None

10. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing Community Center on 2 September, 11:30 AM.

Approved via email 11 Aug 04
WILLIAM E. CROUCH
Colonel, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 11 Aug 04
CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 11 Aug 04
LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary


THOMAS W. YOUNG.
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander