

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 August 2005. It was the 204th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present, absent, advisors, and guests were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, Except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Ch	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Ch
COL William E. Crouch	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Association Secretary
COL James E. Hyers	MSG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	1SG Jackie Ray
LTC James R. Mellish	Ms. Erika Johnson (Widow)
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

CSM William Jolly	SGM William Baker
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ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Susan Denny, CDR, USAAMC
CSM Joseph Moodt, Garrison CSM
Ms. Deborah Seimer, AG
Mr. Stefen Marks, AFFES
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, MWR
Mr. Will Newman, RSO

GUESTS

1LT Mark Lee, PAO
SGM Sam MacMaster

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and introduced 1LT Lee from the Public Affairs Office. 1LT Lee spoke to the Council about the 50th Anniversary Celebration on 21-22 October.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business – COL Bunting reported that work commitments prevented COL Johnson from attending the Council Meeting, therefore he was dropped from the rolls.

5. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs – No report.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the senate majority leader withdrew the FY 2006 Defense Authorization Bill from the floor without action until they reconvene in September, this delayed all amendments that benefit retirees. The House had passed their version in May and 1.5 billion dollars was appropriated to the VA to cover part of its budget shortfall.

c. Health Care – CSM Harris reported the following from the Health Care Meeting on 21 July: the appointment system will be revamped; there is no guarantee flu shots will be available for the RAD and the opening of a VA Clinic at Lyster has been put on hold by the VA.

d. Volunteer Program – Ms. Johnson reported the Volunteer of the Month for August was Ms. Melissa Leake. Also until funds are available to rehire personnel that were let go, the Volunteer of the Month Program is on temporary hold.

e. Consolidated Club System – COL Block reported that although the Club is still losing money it is at a much lower rate than before. Mark Chestnut, country and western star, will be at the club on 1 September. Tickets for active duty go on sale 8-9 August, retirees on 10 August 2005 and open sales after that, approximately 800 tickets will be on sale.

f. Commissary –Mr. O’Meara reported on 15-16 September will be a case lot sale. After the renovation, business has improved but the floor tiling is going slow because of the weather. The promotional sales will be held in the warehouse.

g. PX – Mr. Marks reported on 16 - 18 September the PX will be having the “Still Serving” annual event with vendors, food, door prizes, and special promotions. Starting 6-19 Aug there will be “random sampling” with two laptops available with touch screen options. All who complete the survey will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate. The PX has a “Price Match” program to match prices; additionally, if there is a price change within 30 days, the customer may get a refund. On price differences of \$10.00 or less the cashier can make the adjustment, over \$10.00 the customer will need an ad showing the lower price. Three years ago the PX had 121 employees, now there are 71 to include management. Desktop computers are going out of style so the PX will probably not stock them but they can be ordered and received normally within two days.

h. Golf Course – COL Heath reported on 19 August 1-13th has a tournament. Other events include: 26 August “Pay Day” Scramble, 3-5 September “Club Championship” and the Pro-Am is scheduled for the 24th of September. The Pro-Am is a one day event in hopes of attracting more pros. The September “Pay Day” Scramble will be on the 30th.

i. Equestrian Center -- COL Heath reported an Open Horse Show is scheduled for 13 August and will start at 4:00 pm until complete. Fort Rucker was able to get Horse Trials scheduled for 3 – 4 March 2006 and 15 -16 October 2006 at the meeting in Atlanta. The last Summer Camp will be completed on 5 August. The course will be inspected on 5 August by a course designer to approve the changes made at the Center.

j. Outdoor Recreation – CSM Frye reported that 14 safety requirements were dropped from Fort Rucker Reg. 215-4 making requirements more in line with Alabama safety regulations.

k. Bowling Alley – No report.

l. RAD – See new business.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. COL Denny apologized for being absent from the meetings and reported she might have to miss the RAD Health Fair but the new deputy, COL Colliers, would be there. The Clinic will be upsizing due to BRAC but it will still remain a clinic. To qualify for hospital status 20,000 Active Duty is required. Care is very limited for personnel not enrolled in TRICARE Prime; additionally, the radiologist has been deployed for six months and a part time radiologist will read only those enrolled in Prime x-rays; the lab may be downsized because it is too large for a clinic.

b. Ms. Seimer reported that at the present time there are no funds to have the Fall Fort Rucker Retiree Bulletin printed. This situation must be corrected by 10 August to meet the deadline set by the printer.

c. Mr. Laster reported ACS will lose 6 contract workers Monday morning, 8 August if monies are not received to pay contractors. There will be a Hunting and Fishing Expo held in Yano Hall on 10 September, events include the annual hunters safety briefing along with hunting and fishing classes held by local experts. Hopefully there will be vendors that deal in hunting and fishing equipment. An assistant golf course manager has been hired and the manager referral list is in for selection.

d. CSM Moodt stated this would be his last meeting with us because he is going to the NCO Academy. The new CSM is CSM Alexander and will report for duty on 1 September. He thanked us for all the support given to him and asked for our support of the new CSM.

7. New Business – The advisors were excused and the Council conducted the following new business:

a. A motion was made, seconded, and carried, that if funds were not made available to print and mail the fall bulletin, the Retiree Appreciation Days scheduled for 29-30 October will be cancelled.

b. The Council recommended to the Garrison Commander that SGM(R) Sam MacMaster be appointed to the Retiree Council.

8. Co-Chairman's Comments - None

9. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is at the Aviator's Landing, 1 September 2005 at 11:30 a.m.

Approved via-email 8 Aug 05
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email 8 Aug 05
CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email 8 Aug 05
LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary



WILLIAM S. IARESE
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander