

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 Dec 2008. It was the 242nd regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

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

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

BG Douglas Smith	CSM Gene Nelson
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM James W. Harris
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Sam McMaster
COL Emil Zimmerman	EOC Fred Griffin
LTC Clarence Collins	SFC Bernett Jergenson
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	1SG Ken Prier
	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
	SMS Jean Woodruff
	SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Yvette Kelley	Ms. Nancy Rasmussen, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFES
COL Ruiz-Isales, LACH	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO	

2. CSM Nelson called the meeting to order at 1130.

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

4. Old Business - None.

5. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs – Provided a calendar of events. Highlights included the Holiday Exodus, 20 Dec 2008 – 2 Jan 2009. Post DONSA's are 26 Dec and 2 Jan unless designated Federal holidays by the President.

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b. Legislative Affairs – Congress remains in recess. The 111th Congress convenes 3 Jan and the Presidential Inauguration is 20 Jan 2009. The COLA increase for Retirees is 5.8% and Medicare did not increase at all.

c. Health Care – COL Ruiz-Isales reported Lyster Army Health Clinic continues taking new customers under age 65 to fill openings in its customer base. A slowdown in relocation of tenants from the 2nd floor has, in-turn, slowed the VA Clinic's progress.

d. Retiree Voluntary Support Program – No report.

e. Community Activity Center – Brunch with Santa is on 13 Dec. During the Exodus, Aviator's Landing will be closed. Remodeling inside the Landing continues with estimated May 2009 completion.

f. Commissary – Will be open the Monday of Christmas week at 1000 hours. On Christmas Eve Day operating hours are 1000-1500. Starting 6 Jan 2009, the Commissary will offer an Early Bird shopping hour, 0900-1000, for 20 items or less.

g. PX – Popeye's opened 8 Dec. There will be sales every weekend until Christmas. The renovation project continues in the main PX, garden store and restrooms.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Cooper reminded the Council that catering is available through the Golf Course snack bar. The club will be open on Christmas Day. A turkey/ham shootout will be held on 13 Dec 2009.

i. Equestrian Center – The next event is the Spring Horse Trials 28 Feb – 1 Mar 2009.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergensen reported deer season is slow and not many deer have been harvested. Fishing is going well, and customers are frequently choosing Lake Tholocco, rather than traveling to more distant recreation areas.

k. Bowling Alley – The Boston butt sale the first weekend of each month means sales will occur on 6 Dec and again on 3 Jan. Please call the bowling alley (x9503) to reserve your Boston butts for \$15.00. New Years Eve Bowl is 31 Dec 2008.

l. RAD – The 2008 AAR is at the Command Group along with the Council's request to host the 2009 RAD as a one-day event with SMA(R) Jack Tilley as its guest speaker. Initial contact with LAHC, the Aviator's Landing and AG has taken place for the event.

6. Advisors' Comments

a. COL Kelley reminded everyone about the numerous Silver Wings Band performances in the local communities. She also pointed out the home building plan for the installation is in year three of an eight year program.

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b. Mr. Laster, DMWR, reported renovations on the Post library would start on 22 Dec and beginning 22 Jan, the old bank building near the bowling alley would serve as a temporary library.

7. New Business – The Council voted favorably to suspend the January 2009 meeting due to the New Year’s holiday.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at Aviator’s Landing on 5 February at 1130.

Approved via-email
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email
GENE NELSON
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:
CHRIS E. MOORE
For CAROLYN BOST-PITTMAN
LTC, Retired
Secretary

-- original signed --
YVETTE J. KELLEY
COL, AV
Garrison Commander