

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 5 Feb 2009. It was the 243<sup>rd</sup> 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 Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM James W. Harris
COL Emil Zimmerman	SGM Sam McMaster
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	1SG Ken Prier
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
	SMS Jean Woodruff
	EOC Fred Griffin
	SFC Bernett Jergenson
	SFC Ralph Reed

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL James E. Hyers  
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman  
LTC Clarence Collins

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. George Steuber, DGC	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. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130.

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

4. Old Business – Gift cards were presented to former Council members CSM(R) Charles Frye and 1SG(R) Jackie Ray.

5. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs – Provided a calendar of events. Highlighted events were the Post DONSA on 13 Feb, the National Prayer Breakfast on 19 Feb, and the AER Kick-off Luncheon on 23 Feb 2009.

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- b. Legislative Affairs – The attention of Congress is currently on the stimulus package.
  - c. Health Care – COL Ruiz-Isales reviewed progress on the VA Clinic, healthcare costs, their impact on Retirees and the military community. Additionally, discussed the approved funding for the MRI and CT Scanning equipment to be shared with the VA Clinic.
  - d. Retiree Voluntary Support Program – No report.
  - e. Community Activity Center – Aviator’s Landing will host dinner theaters on 13 and 14 Feb, including a children’s theater on 15 Feb. The water slide is now under construction at the Aviator’s Landing pool. The DFMWR “Spring Fest” will be held 20-22 Mar. Remodeling inside Aviator’s Landing continues with estimated completion date of May 2009.
  - f. Commissary – 47 recalls related to the peanut salmonella outbreak. Mr. O’Meara provided a handout outlining DOD’s policy prohibiting publication of commissary prices. Early bird shopping hours have not been accepted well, due to few patrons taking advantage of the hours.
  - g. PX – Popeye’s is now open. Sensing sessions with customers and buyers will be conducted to determine choices of items to be offered. The AAFES gas station parking lot and gas lanes was contracted for remarking and striping to take place. The renovation project continues in the main PX, while the garden store renovations are nearly completed.
  - h. Golf Course – As of Jan 09, the course is operating in the “black.” Winter is a time when the focus is on course clean-up. A couple’s tournament will be held on 14-15 Feb.
  - i. Equestrian Center – The Spring Horse Trials scheduled for 28 Feb – 1 Mar will probably be canceled, due to lack of interest. Reduction or elimination of events is becoming a reality, because of reduced entries/interest.
  - j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergensen reported there were no customer safety incidents. Two fines for hunting in “Off-Limits” areas were assessed.
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- k. Bowling Alley – 1SG Prier addressed all of the amenities the Bowling Alley offers including the monthly Boston Butt sales, lunches, and the facilities themselves.
  - l. RAD – The CG approved the Council’s request to host the RAD on 30 Oct 2009 as a one-day event with SMA(R) Jack Tilley as guest speaker.

6. Advisors’ Comments

- a. Mr. Steuber recently stated, Congressman Bobby Bright was coming to review installation repair and rebuilding needs. He also reminded the Council that Bravo Company, 46<sup>th</sup> Engineers and 164<sup>th</sup> TAOG are returning from Iraq this summer.

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Additionally, he stated funding for FY 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr is unknown at this time but organizations should expect there to be no funds available.

b. Mr. Laster, DMWR, reported an on-line version of the “Lemon Lot” was established. Patrons pay an additional \$5.00 for advertising vehicles on the website.

7. CSM Nelson – Suggested and emphasized Council members should now begin soliciting for RAD give-a-ways, in order to give business owners more planning time in light of the current economic situation. COL Bunting provided an update on the first Honor Flight scheduled to transport WWII Veterans to Washington, D.C. for their viewing of the WWII Memorial.

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

  
JUVETTE J. KELLEY  
COL, AV  
Garrison Commander