

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 7 May 2009. It was the 246th 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	SGM Sam McMaster
COL James E. Hyers	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
CW4 Bob Cooper	SFC Bennett Jergenson
	Mrs. Marie Wilkins

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Emil Zimmerman	EOC Fred Griffin, USN
LTC Clarence Collins	1SG Ken Prier
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
	SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. George Steuber, DGC	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mrs. Gail Braley, AG	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mrs. Martha Frausto, LAHC	

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 – SGM McMaster provided a calendar of events. Highlights included the Mother's Day brunch, "Lakefest", the Army Birthday Ball and Father's Day brunch.
 - b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported that qualifying military personnel and veterans may enroll in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill program beginning 1 May 2009. Pentagon officials announced that the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) will expand the criteria under which medical separates can apply to have their records evaluated for upgrade to disability

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retirement status. Service members given a disability rating of 20 percent or lower during their medical evaluation boards since Sept. 11, 2001, may have their cases reviewed by this new Defense Department board.

c. Health Care – Mrs. Frausto reported that missed appointments are on the rise adversely affecting healthcare funding. LAHC Patient satisfaction is 89%, but MEDCOM’s goal is 90%. A Women’s Health Fair, to include educational classes will be held at the clinic on 13 May from 0800-1200 in Room V-130.

d. Voluntary Support Program – No report.

e. Community Activity Center – The Mother’s Day Brunch is 10 May and the cost is \$16.95. The Dawn Patrol Lounge renovation is still on schedule to be completed 5 August and the grand opening will be the end of August. Construction on the water park behind the “Landing” has been hampered by the wet weather and its opening will be pushed back into June.

f. Commissary – Mr. O’Meara reported a case lot sale will be held 8-10 May.

g. PX – AAFES gas stations have been in good condition since last month’s meeting comments. There will be tent sales on 8 May at the PX and on 15 May at the Shoppette.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Cooper reported two new holes will be completed by Memorial Day weekend. The Memorial Day Flag tournament will be 25 May.

i. Equestrian Center – COL Heath reported there will be an open horse show on 30 May.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson reported approximately 107 turkeys were killed this year. A fall turkey hunting season is being considered. The lake opens 23 May for swimming.

k. Bowling Alley – No report.

l. RAD – No new changes/information to report.

6. Advisors’ Comments. Mr. Steuber reported the Secretary of Defense’s visit allowed Ft. Rucker officials to give him specific construction requirements including hangers, SERE , dunker training facilities and wheeled vehicle repair facilities. The installation received \$12.2m in stimulus funds to use for bridging projects, IET barracks HVAC upgrades and other energy specific projects. He also reported the Christian Road Bridge reopens 15 May.

7. New Business – COL Bunting reminded everyone about the first Honor Flight departing from Dothan on 9 May to Washington, D.C. for WWII veterans. It returns at 8:00 p.m. the same day. Everyone is encouraged to welcome the veterans back that evening.

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8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 4 June 2009 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


YVETTE J. KELLEY
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander