

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 February 2010. It was the 254th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

BG Douglas Smith	CSM Gene Nelson
COL Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
COL James E. Hyers	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
COL Emil Zimmermann	SFC Bernett Jergenson
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF
CW4 Bob Cooper	EOC Fred Griffin, USN
Mrs Marie Wilkins	1SG Ken Prier

MEMBERS ABSENT

LTC Clarence Collins	1SG Frank Ellerkamp
	SFC Ralph Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Yvette Kelley, Garrison Cdr	COL Ruiz-Isales, LAHC
CSM Dwaine Walters, Garrison CSM	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Justin Mitchell, Deputy Garrison Cdr	Ms. Sheryl Lowell, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFEES

2. CSM Nelson called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. CSM Nelson expressed thanks for all attendees present at the meeting.
4. CSM Harris opened the meeting with a prayer.
5. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
6. Old Business - None
7. New Business - Ms. Karen Brenenstahl, IGH, Army Hotels gave an overview of the renovations (i.e. 200 new beds, and the return use of 22 rooms in building 142, and Soldier control of the heat and air). The rate for hotel lodging is 75% of local per diem and official business takes precedence over unofficial business. All profits are returned to the installation.

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Travel to attend the Retiree Council Meeting was discussed as official or unofficial business and COL Kelley stated she would endorse a recommendation for evaluation on a case-by-case basis.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Public Affairs - Ms. Lowell discussed the deactivation of Bravo Co, 46th Engineer Battalion, the upcoming National Prayer Breakfast on 11 Feb from 0630-0800, and introduced new community relations representative, Mr. Kyle Ford.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the budget request of \$50.7 billion, to fully funding the Military Health System without an increase in fees and co-pays. Secretary Gates said, "There has not been an increase in premiums since (TRICARE) was founded in 1995". The Senate approved H.J. Res 45, bill increasing the national debt limit, included an amendment offered by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev, providing a five-year fix for the 21 percent cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to physicians, scheduled to take effect on 1 Mar.

c. Health Care - CSM Harris attended the health care consumer meeting on 21 Jan and reported flu shots are still available. The VA is making progress, staffing personnel and the pharmacy continues to review ideas to improve service. Appointments costs \$94.00 for each missed appointment. Active Duty personnel have missed approximately 6,010 appointments (including dependents) and Retirees 1,175. All beneficiaries of health care at LAHC must be informed missed appointments affect the quality of care. COL Ruiz-Isales reported she attended the military health systems conference and Lyster Army Health Clinic was awarded \$1 million for its size clinic in the Army. The MRI/CT scan will be available in March and in use as soon as possible. The change of command for COL Ruiz-Isales will be held on 17 Jun.

d. Community Activity - None

e. Commissary - None

f. Retiree Voluntary Support - Open

g. PX - Ms. Rutledge discussed the AAFES upcoming sales events 12-16 Feb in honor of Valentine's Day, President's Day and the celebration of Mardi Gras. The Outdoor Living Season will open 12 Feb, with an assortment of grills, furniture, and equipment with fantastic savings!

h. Golf Course - CW4 Cooper reported the Silver Wings Golf Council meeting for Jan was canceled and the next meeting will be held on 11 Feb. The 2010 membership drive continues through 31 Mar. Door prizes and special offers will be held for members only at 1600, 1 Apr at Divots Banquet Room. Membership fees are very affordable, with a month's fee saved by making payments annually. The membership year is 1 Apr 2010 - 31 Mar 2011. A new Pro

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(Chris' replacement) will arrive and begin work on 1 Mar. The Pro shop continues its sale with many items discounted 50%.

i. Equestrian Center - 1SG Prier reported the 20 Feb Open Horse Show and the 27-28 Feb Horse Trials. Concessions are available and the facility ramps are completed. There have been many positive reviews for this year at the Center.

j. Outdoor Recreation - SFC Jergenson reported hunting season is over with 81 deer killed, but more pigs than deer were killed. Turkey season begins 15 Mar and a hunter's education card is required.

k. Bowling Alley - SMS Woodruff reported the Ladies' State Bowling League will begin next month in Montgomery, AL. Request support from the community for the Ladies' Leagues.

l. RAD - The next RAD is 29 Oct 2010. Mr. Moore will coordinate with Mr. Cooper for next year's RAD speaker. Mr. Cooper is working on the speaker for the RAD. Mr. Leroy Bussells, AUSA, was contacted and invited to be a speaker, but is unable to attend. Mr. Cooper is now working to invite MG(R) Bill Matz from NAUS to be the RAD speaker. Additionally, Mr. Cooper is continuing his work to get support for a VA Cemetery at Ft Rucker. He has discussed the project with Congressman Bright, but local, state, and national support from representatives is needed because of the cost of millions of dollars. Mr. Cooper out briefed 16 issues to CSA and the AFAP started with 82 issues.

9. Advisors' Comments.

a. Mr. Laster reported there will be a free concert on 12 Feb, featuring Lee Jones; a hip hop street performance band; and an upcoming Texas Hold'em game at The Landing, beginning at 6:00 on 18 and 25 Feb and 4 and 11 Mar.

b. CSM Walters commented the Center Library has been renovated and reopened for business. Ground breaking for the new Chapel will begin 16 Feb.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 4 Mar at 1130.

Approved via-email

BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

Carolyn Bost-Pittman
LTC, Retired
Secretary

MAR 05 2010


YVETTE J. KELLEY
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander