

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 1 July 2010. It was the 259th 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
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	1SG Ken Prier
LTC Clarence Collins	SFC Bernett Jergenson
CW4 Bob Cooper	SFC Ralph Reed
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Emil Zimmermann	TSGT Bill Bieber, USA
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ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Patrick N. Denman, LAHC	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
CSM Dwaine Walters, Garrison	Ms. Ellen Rutledge, AAFES
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary

2. COL Bob Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130.

3. CSM Gene Nelson opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

5. Old Business – None.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Public Affairs – Open, no report.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported that the House passed legislation approved by the Senate (H.R. 3962) to restore full Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors through the end of November 2010. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is stopping all savings bond allotments for military personnel, Retirees, and federal civilians as of July 31. Future savings bond purchases will have to be done via payroll deduction. Inflation ticked up 0.1 percent in May but still needs to climb by more than half a percent for Retirees to see an increase by 2011. Medicare held up processing claims for more than two weeks but finally implemented the reduced payments for claims since June 1 as Congress continued to procrastinate. Now, Medicare must reprocess all affected claims and pay doctors the difference. TRICARE did not implement the 21% cuts, but this bill delayed the issue six months until after the election. This

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means Congress will have to act again in the coming months to keep the 21% cut from being reinstated as of December 1.

c. Health Care – LTC Collins introduced COL Patrick Denman, the new Commander at LAHC. COL Denman has served as a line medic and as MSC officer at the health clinic in Schweinfurt, Germany. COL Denman commented that he is here for the beneficiaries, and the pharmacy area will be renovated without any beneficiary service interruptions. 1SG Prier (DAV Commander, Enterprise) reported that he has visited the VA clinic, located on the second floor of LAHC, and that VA physicals can now be conducted there.

d. Community Activity – LTC Collins reported that he attended the Fathers' Day Brunch at The Landing, and the meal preparation was excellent. Mr. Laster commented that The Legends room is almost complete.

e. Commissary – Mr. O'Meara reported that the Commissary will open 1000-1500 on 4 July, and they now offer pickled herring in the Deli. The next case lot sale will be 10-12 September.

f. Retiree Voluntary Support - Open

g. PX – Ms. Rutledge reported that she is leaving for Iraq; Mr. Joe Escobar is her replacement. The PX will offer an additional 25% off clearance on clothing, shoes, etc., and all patio furniture during the 4th of July weekend. A free showing of McClelland's Critters will start on 15 July at 1130 in the PX mall. Mr. Mike McClelland & his critters will help AAFES celebrate its 115th anniversary.

h. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper reported that everything was going fine on the golf course. He mentioned that the CSA Retiree Council report for this year's meeting is in the Army Echoes and on line, and that the next meeting for the Enterprise veterans' parade is 26 July.

i. Equestrian Center – 1SG Prier stated there will be an Open Show on 18 September and that renovations at the center are continuous. COL Bunting commented that the Ozark rodeo will be held 20-21 August. 1SG Prier announced plans to make this year's veterans' parade the largest in the state. He added that female veterans are being sought to participate. LTC Bost-Pittman volunteered to spearhead the women's veteran float for this year's parade.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson reported that the weather was very hot, and deerflies are bad at Lake Tholocco. Also, the Lake is busy, and the pig hunting is ongoing.

k. Bowling Alley – SMS Jean A. Woodruff reported that summer leagues are still in progress. SMS Woodruff also is continuing to work on interests that would benefit Fort Rucker.

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1. RAD – LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman reported LAHC will conduct the first meeting for the health fair on 9 July at LAHC. Chris Moore, RSO, asked for dinner suggestions for the RAD evening meal, and the vote was for the menu to remain the same as last year.

7. Advisors' Comments.

a. Mr. Laster discussed the Bingo sessions that are held on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings in the Cobra lounge. Freedom Fest is Saturday, 3 July, from 1600-2200 at the festival fields. Seventy different vendors, food, crafts, a kid's zone with inflatables and water slides, and a beer tent with live entertainment from 1600-1800 will be available. New Survivor Outreach Services for survivors' children, parents, etc., will be conducted. A special song will be performed for all fallen warriors, a "never forgotten card" with discounts from AAFES and MWR will be presented, and flags representing deceased Soldiers will be displayed. Groundbreaking for six new cabins at the Lake will begin soon for early spring completion.

b. Ms Lowell, PAO, highlighted the 29 July retirement ceremony at the Aviation Museum; the 10 August Job Fair at The Landing from 0800-1300; the 12 August Retiree Fair at the Enterprise Civic Center from 0900-1300; and that the general membership breakfast for AUSA has been cancelled.

8. New Business – None

9. COL Bunting discussed the 5th Honor Flight in October that currently has 24 applicants.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1300. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 5 August 2010 at 1130.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

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JAMES A. MUSKOPF**
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