

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 7 October 2010. It was the 262nd 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 James Hyers	CSM James W. Harris
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	SMSGT Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
LTC Clarence Collins	SFC Ralph Reed
CW4 Bob Cooper	SFC Bennett Jergenson
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	1SG Ken Prier
COL Emil Zimmermann	EOC Fred Griffin, USN

ADVISORS PRESENT

LTC(P) Wendy Campbell, LAHC	Ms. Sheryl Lowell, PAO
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO	Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES

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

3. COL Hyers 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 – CSM Nelson reported the military affairs committee postponed their meeting today and that the Ozark community has not regenerated a retiree group. The only active group is in Enterprise and meetings are held at the chamber of commerce. There will be a retiree picnic in Enterprise on 14 October, at 11:00 am, Johnny Henderson Park. CSM Nelson will serve as the liaison (PAO) between retiree councils for each city (Ozark and Enterprise).

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported that (1) an e-mail is making its rounds on the internet and claims that new legislation will dramatically increase veterans' disability compensation- in some cases by more than 100 percent. (2) Congress will pass a continuing

resolution to keep the government running until 3 December. (3) This follows the FY2011 Defense Authorization Bill and extension of Bush-era tax cuts. (4) Congress will have to come up with a way to avoid a catastrophic 23.5% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors that will happen December 1 unless Congress changes the law-with an additional 6.1% cut looming on January 1. (5) The President's deficit commission is scheduled to report on December 1 concerning the various kinds of ugly options Congress will have to choose from to address the spiraling national debt. (6) The Senate Finance Committee Chairman has introduced S.3793, the Job Creation and Tax Cuts Act, which breathes new life into concurrent receipt for this year. This act includes the Administration's proposal to phase out the VA disability pay offset for all Chapter 61 (medical) retirees, regardless of years of service, whether the disability was combat-related or not.

c. Health Care – CSM Harris reported the flu vaccine is not yet available; however, it is expected at anytime. The Quarterly Healthcare Consumer Meeting is 14 October at LAHC.

d. Community Activity – LTC Collins reported the next scheduled meeting is 20 October.

e. Commissary – SFC Reed reported the case lot sale that was held 10 September was not successful because sale items were not what customers wanted. The Commissary broke even at the event. The commissary regularly has meat specials on Fridays.

f. Retiree Voluntary Support – Open

g. PX – Mr. Escobar introduced himself as the new AAFES store manager. He outlined the “End of Summer Bash,” a free movie screening, and a Game Stop event on 3 September. Hispanic Heritage month kicks off 17 September with free food samplings, vendors and concessionaires, and piñata for the kids, etc.

h. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper reported that the golf course is in good shape and the superintendent is back from his illness. The cafeteria is doing well.

i. Equestrian Center – No report.

j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson discussed the hunting and fishing regulation available on-line. Hunting season starts 1 October and dove hunting season starts 2 October. Hunting is free to those who are 65 and older, but a permit and a hunter education card are still needed regardless of age. Bow and arrow hunting begins 15 October and 20 October is when gun hunting begins. Doe hunting with a gun is limited to a designated period.

k. Bowling Alley – SMSGT Woodruff discussed the Navy reunion in Aberdeen, MD. SMSGT Woodruff requested suggestions for projects at Ft Rucker.

l. RAD – Mr. Moore and LTC Bost-Pittman will provide oversight of the Retiree volunteers and events for the RAD. Mr. Moore discussed door prizes, the receipt of eight gift certificates and challenged Retiree volunteers to get out and get donations. The Retiree volunteers will meet at 0730, at The Landing to provide assistance at the Health Fair.

7. Advisors' Comments.

a. LTC(P) Campbell stated that a small quantity of the flu vaccine is in, but she expects it to be readily available for the RAD. The Health Fair will include blood pressure checks, flu shots, and pneumonia shots with a prescription. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries can go off post for flu shots, without a referral, at no cost. The LAHC immunization clinic will be closed the morning of 29 October because of the RAD.

b. Ms. Lowell – PAO discussed the 29 October Haunted Hay Ride at the equestrian center and the 6 November AAAA chili cook-off at the festival fields and the Army Covenant signing.

8. New Business – Retiree issues for submission to the Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council are due to Mr. Moore by 15 November.

9. COL Hyers reported that the 5th and last Honor Flight had 35 WWII veterans. A total of 390 WWII veterans participated in Honor Flights from Dothan. Northwest Florida (Okaloosa County) had their last honor flight today according to BG Smith.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1300. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 4 November 2010 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



JAMES A. MUSKOPF
Colonel, Aviation
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