

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 4 November 2010. It was the 263^d 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 James W. Harris
COL Bob Bunting	SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
COL James Hyers	1SG Ken Prier
COL Emil Zimmermann	SFC Bennett Jergenson
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	EOC Fred Griffin, USN
LTC Clarence Collins	Mrs. Marie Wilkins
CW4 Bob Cooper	

MEMBERS ABSENT

CSM Gene Nelson
SFC Ralph Reed
TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Patrick Denman, LAHC CDR	Ms. Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR
CSM Dwayne Walters, Garrison CSM	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary	Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES

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

3. LTC Collins opened the meeting with a prayer.

4. COL Bunting thanked COL Denman and others for an outstanding job performance at the Retiree Activities Day (RAD). Special recognition went to out for the numerous commissary gift certificates (over 40) that were presented at the RAD. COL Bunting emphasized the RAD's importance, that it is the Retiree Council's main event, and the next RAD is 28 October 2011. COL Bunting excused himself and turned the meeting over to COL Hyers.

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

6. Old Business – Mr. Moore needs a response on Retiree issues for Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council NLT 15 November 2011. A negative response to IMCOM is required. Garrison will prepare thank you letters for RAD gift donations.

7. Committee Reports:

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a. Public Affairs – No report

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts are back. The flawed statutory formula that determines doctors Medicare/TRICARE payments will be cut by 23.5% on 1 December unless Congress intervenes. To make matters worse an additional 6.1% cut is scheduled to kick in effective 1 January 2011. The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is due to release its findings and recommendations on 1 December on how to address spiraling deficits and cost growth of programs such as Social Security and Medicare, military compensation, retired pay, and health care. The VA announced that an updated Disability Evaluation System will replace the current DOD legacy program in the coming year.

c. Health Care – CSM Harris reported that the sign at LAHC stating “flu shots for active duty only” will change on Monday, 8 November to read flu shots are available to all eligible beneficiaries. CSM Harris spoke with Mr. Donnelly and the VA now has audiology services (equipment, space, and an audiologist that will report 1 January 2011). COL Denman reported 15 does of shingles vaccine are available; however, you must call the Immunization Clinic before you come. COL Denman also reported that 482 total shots were given at the RAD (367 flu shots/12 pneumonia shots).

d. Community Activity – LTC Collins discussed the group rates for the Thanksgiving dinner and had no report items from community activity.

e. Commissary – Mr. O’Meara discussed the Commissary operating hours for Veterans Day will be from 0900-1900. He distributed flyers with hours of operation for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. He also reminded everyone that special orders require advance notice and the Commissary will open on “Black Friday.”

f. Retiree Voluntary Support – No Report.

g. AAFES – Mr. Escobar reported that a retiree from Brundidge, AL won the Samsung washer/dryer give away held in conjunction with the RAD. He also discussed the Veterans’ Day Appreciation Gun Show 0900-2000, 12-13 November and 1000-1800, 14 November.

h. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper discussed the Turkey Shootout at Silver Wings Golf Course. Cost is \$20.00 plus green fees. Mr. Cooper also discussed the Enterprise Veterans’ Day parade.

i. Equestrian Center – 1SG Ken Prier discussed the Haunted Hay ride had expanded to route 56 and participation was good. The horse show on 6 November is free to the public. 1SG Prier informed the council that the Veterans Day parade in Enterprise was scheduled to de-conflict the schedules of the VIPs participating in the parade. The Veterans ceremony will commence at 6 p.m. immediately after the parade at the Enterprise civic center.

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j. Outdoor Recreation – SFC Jergenson reported the Wounded Warrior annual turkey/deer hunt is finished and \$130,000 of raffle proceeds will go to the program. East Beach cottages are coming along fine. Pigs are digging up the fairways at the golf course. Lights are on the golf course to assist in finding and capturing these pigs. Deer hunting starts 15 October. Gun season starts 20 November and hunters can kill bucks only because of the low doe count. There will be no hunting on Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year. Crappie fishing is good at night, however, the crappie must be at least nine inches. The next outdoor recreation meeting is 21 November and anyone can come and observe.

k. Bowling Alley – SMS Woodruff discussed the National Peanut Festival bowling tournament. SMS Woodruff is still requesting good ideas from the Post by the new year.

l. RAD – Mr Chris Moore has reviewed and staffed the RAD AAR comments. Mr. Moore commented that generally there were no complaints and advised that we start planning for the next RAD (i.e. speaker, location, meal). A recommendation was made to ask Admiral(R) Marsh from the Alabama Veterans’ Affairs to be next year’s RAD speaker.

8. Advisors’ Comments.

a. COL Patrick N. Denman met with the Disabled American Veterans commanders to discuss LAHC parking lot renovations. The renovated parking lot will accommodate 12 more handicapped spots. Construction for this project starts 8 November and ends 15 February (weather permitting). COL Denman discussed LAHC holiday hours, and security of the clinic. LAHC access plans may result in only one entrance to LAHC to maintain security.

b. CSM Walters reported that loaded weapons are coming through the gates, therefore, security has been ramped up with increased inspections for weapons at the gates. CSM Walters also discussed that BOSS single soldiers will visit veterans on 11 November. The Enterprise gate construction project has had contractor difficulties; however, the Enterprise gate will be completed. The Cairns gate will be completed before the Enterprise gate.

9. New Business – None.

10. Beverly Griffin, guest and daughter of EOC Fred Griffin was introduced to the council. 1SG Rickey Jones introduced himself and commented that he is looking to become a member of the Retiree Council.

11. The meeting adjourned at 1300. The next scheduled meeting will be held at The Landing on 1130, 6 January 2011.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

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Prepared By:

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LTC, Retired
Secretary



JAMES A. MUSKOPF
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander

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