

The one hundred and thirtieth (130) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at 4215 Roberts Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Conference Room, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:15 a.m., December 6, 2013 in accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

The following members were present:

MG Roderick J. Isler, USA Ret (Chairman)

CSM Sandra A. Matlock-Williams USA Ret (co-Chairman)

COL Erwin Burt nick, AUS Ret

COL Burt L. Rice, USA Ret

COL Jean Simmons, USA Ret

SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret

SGM Jim Gilbert, USA Ret

MSG Charles Plummer, USA Ret

MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret

SSG Shirley Grande, USA Ret

SSG Walter Hollman, USA Ret  
Eugene Johnson

Mrs. Catherine Eckford

Mrs. Missy Duncan

Frank Macias, Commissary

Ms. Lavon Gaylord, RSO Rep

MG Isler called the meeting to order with a welcome to all. COL Rice rendered the invocation and MG Isler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

The retiree appreciation day was successful even with the change of date. There were 300-400 participants at the event. Lunch was better this year with no bus issues. The date was changed because of sequestration. The event was postponed the held two weeks later.

During the event, Mr. Mueller provided an update from the Garrison and Mark Overbeck, the guest speaker from the Retiree Service office briefed the attendees. Thanks go out to AUSA, Ft. Meade Credit Union, the Commissary and the Exchange for supporting the event.

#### AAFES

Exchange: The construction at the new Exchange was on target. It is targeted to open Jul/Aug 14 time frame. The next phase of the construction, the demolition of the old exchange and new parking lot in its place completion date is Dec 2014. The shops in the new Exchange include, a Refill Pharmacy, Optical. The exchange will sale weapons and ammo, the clothing sales will serve all branches of the services. There will also be Lawn and Garden. The food court will add Boston market, Starbucks, Charlie's, Subway, and Domino's Pizza. The above shops will all be under one roof. There will be no closure during the moving between stores.

#### Express (Exchange/Gas Station):

The 32 Express is projected for completion the end of January 2014. It should open Mid February. It will have 12 gas pumps and Arby Drive through. Once the Express opens the Trading Post in the student area will close. The express and gas pumps will remain open 24 hours with some of the vendors closing the same time as the gate closure. There are concerns for safety of those crossing Mapes Rd to get to the Express. Those issues are being addressed and will be worked out prior to opening.

Also, KACC and the NSA area are getting Subway Sandwich shops. KACC's sandwich shop is going into the Refill Pharmacy area. The projected opening for both shops is end of March 2014.

The current Express has the highest sales volume in the US (compared with others). Ft. Meade also had many sweepstakes winners; a third grader won \$2000. Other prize winners received a Motorcycle, Trip to Hawaii, Bikes, Sony Sound System and an IPAD.

#### DECA

The Commissary new store director is John Blythe. His email is [John.Blythe@deca.mil](mailto:John.Blythe@deca.mil). There are now gift card available for the commissary ranging in price of \$25-50 dollars. They have a customer loyalty card discount. Individuals can sign up for their cards. The children's college scholarship program is underway. The commissary has postponed the scanning of ID cards with no new date set.

There were concerns expressed about the self-checkout lines at the commissary. The reason for the issues is software problems and Ft. Meade does not have a resident IT tech. The fixes are done remotely. They are working on upgrades to the system.

There was a request for response for feedback from customer service when requesting a new item. The individual's name and contact information is necessary to complete this feedback.

There have been rumors of the commissaries closing. This is currently not true. There was a study completed in 173 commissaries in the US that impacts the stateside commissaries.

#### Retiree Services Office

Thanked the council for their help with the RAD. Ms. Gaylord stated that the date changes had no significant impact on the RAD itself concerning attendance. The Commander and Ms. Messick established the final dates. Mrs. Anna Taylor, who is out for health reasons is scheduled to return to work on 4 Jan 14.

#### New Business

Discussion to place on the dates for the next RAD. The council recommended the following dates in order of priority: First 24 Oct 14 and Second 17 Oct 14.

The council discussed the Surviving Spouse Symposium. It was determined that there would be one this year with the event projected to be on 7 Jun 14. A committee was formed to work on the specifics with the council's assistance. Col Burt Nick is the lead, Missy Duncan and Barbara Barron agreed to work on the committee. The Symposium would replace the June meeting. The venue would be either Club Meade or the Conference Center. The date would become firm once the venue is determined.

#### Good of the order

Delta Dental at the end of December 2013, they will no longer allow individuals to pay by check and only accept electronic payments.

The next retiree council meeting will be held 1 March 2014 at 4216 Roberts Ave., in the ACAP office.

MG Isler adjourned the meeting at 10:45.