



# STILL SERVING

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Winter 2008

Volume 16, Number 1

## STILL ARMY STRONG!

### NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

I hope this finds everyone doing well. Happy New Year to all. This year promises to be exciting. We have already started planning for the 2008 Retiree Appreciation Day. It will be held on October 17. (Hopefully we will avoid the rain by having it a little earlier.) Last year's RAD was memorable for the weather. When it rains, it pours and this was no exception. We tried something different by holding the guest speaker segment at the Post theater. A special thanks to COL (USA Ret) John Radke, Chief, Army Retirement Services, for putting on a dynamic program. This year we are going to hold that segment at Kimbrough in the afternoon so that everything, except for the lunch, will be under one roof. More to follow.

Please feel free to check out our homepage. You will find prior issues of the "Still Serving" newsletter, Fort Meade Retiree Council minutes, and up-to-date information on events happening on Fort Meade. The site is: [www.ftmeade.army.mil/rso-index.html](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/rso-index.html). Please save this in your favorites.

A big thank you to my staff, Cynthia Johnson. Her dedication, support, and hard work have made this office one of the best. I would like to welcome Don Eisenhart (SFC, USA Ret) to the staff. He along with Mrs. Johnson will be working the pre-retirement portion. I would also like to thank the Retiree Council for their dedication to the area retirees.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Installation Cdr's Message -----	page 2
Future RADS--- -----	page 3
Handy Phone Numbers-----	page 3
ID Card News-----	page 3
FGGM Council Chairmans Notes-----	page 4
Handy Web Sites-----	page 5
Casualty Assistance Checklist-----	page 6

### NOTICE

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## Installation Commander's Message Colonel Kenneth McCreedy

Another year has passed us by and much has happened at Fort Meade, so permit me to review some significant accomplishments from the last six months of 2007.

I begin by again expressing my heartfelt and sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the outstanding support our retirees have provided during a variety of events, activities and programs such as the Summer Band Concerts, Retiree Appreciation Day, the OWC Craft Fair, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beacon of Light guest speaker series, as well as our Armed Forces Blood Drives, Bone Marrow Donor Drive and Combined Federal Campaign. Whenever the call goes out to the Fort Meade community, our retirees respond with generosity, enthusiasm and a positive, can-do attitude. We are truly blessed to have such involvement and participation on this installation.

In a previous column you may recall that I asked for suggestions and/or recommendations on ways to spend our ACOE prize money. By the end of September we had received more than 150 good ideas. I am also proud to inform readers that this post was selected as one of four finalists in this year's ACOE competition. As I told the garrison workforce during a town hall meeting in October, this recognition is due to the exceptional efforts of our entire community – to include military personnel, civilian employees, contractors, family members and **RETIREES**. Look for results to be published in a future edition of the weekly post paper, Soundoff.

Part of our success in these ACOE competitions is our ability to set a strategic vision supported with attainable, measurable goals and objectives. In October I briefed our workforce on Fort Meade's Strategic Action Plan. This document lays out the short and long-term goals and objectives for the installation. As I told our employees, having a strategic plan keeps us focused on where we need to go and gives us assistance in prioritizing how we are going to spend our time and money to get there.

Our five strategic goals are to improve the quality of life for our customers and the Fort Meade community; improve the installation's infrastructure, facilities, technology and

environment to meet current and future mission requirements; provide a safe and secure work environment; maintain a mission ready workforce that continuously improves and upgrades its capabilities; and continuously improve installation business practices and processes to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. There's top to bottom ownership in accomplishing these goals and I encourage input and feedback from our retiree population as well as to how we can best achieve them.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative is now starting to become a reality on this installation. Next April, the Defense Information System Agency (DISA) will break ground for their facilities and begin the construction phase of their relocation here from Fairfax, Va. By early 2010, DISA personnel will start arriving on post with all 4,300 military personnel and civilian employees here by December 2011. Groundbreaking for the Army Adjudication Activity and Defense Media Activity should be underway by 2009 with all personnel relocating by September 2001.

Meanwhile, the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) initiative will unlock the center of the installation and give value to Fort Meade property as a whole. The EUL developer will build a new golf course as well as provide other infrastructure improvements (to include roads). Stay tuned to the Soundoff for more details as they become available.

Several stateside transportation projects will have potential impact on installation access to include the widening of Maryland Route 175. Ongoing traffic studies will determine what other road improvements must be made to accommodate the projected increased traffic congestion on the installation. On a related matter, the Mapes Gate at Route 175 will close in January for upgrades. In its place we will reopen the Llewellyn Gate at Route 175 from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mapes Road at Maryland Route 32 remains open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week; Reece Road at Route 175 is open 24 hours daily; and Rockenbach Road at Route 175 is open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week. For additional information on gate access and hours of operation, call (301) 677-6618.

In October the installation successfully conducted a terrorist training exercise to test

and evaluate our security measures and emergency response procedures. There was extensive coordination and cooperation among federal, state and local government law enforcement and medical agencies. During an after action briefing, I told participants how impressed I was with the effort. We learned a lot and will continue to make improvements in keeping this post, its personnel and property safe and secure.

Finally, let me just say that senior Army leaders have signed the Army Family Covenant pledging their support for Soldiers and their Families. It represents a commitment by the senior leadership of our Army to focus and resource Family programs and services at all installations. In the coming months we will establish a Soldier and Family Assistance Center to provide care and support for returning Wounded Warriors. Again, look to the Soundoff for more details.

In conclusion, I'd like to wish all our retirees a peaceful and prosperous 2008. There's lots happening and I look forward to working with you. Your continued contributions plan an important part in our success. You are indeed STILL SERVING! It is an honor to serve at your side.

## RETIRED COOKS AND / OR BAKERS

The Retirement Services Office is located in Building 2234 which is the old Cook and Bakers School back in the 1930s and 1940s. We are currently placing a stove from that era which was used in this building in the entryway as a reminder of that period. If there are any former cooks and bakers who went to this school or if you know of anyone please contact Steve Ashley, RSO, at (301)677-9603 or through the e-mail address located on the front page.

## FUTURE RADS

Ideas are needed for future Retiree Appreciation Day itineraries. I would love to hear any suggestions you might have to add to the program or to improve it. Please feel free to e-mail me at: [mderso@conus.army.mil](mailto:mderso@conus.army.mil) or write to: Retirement Services Office, 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5073.

It might be something that could be incorporated into the program.

## HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

### FORT MEADE

POST LOCATOR	(301) 677-6261
ACS / AER	(301) 677-5590
CAMP MEADE RV PARK	(301) 677-6196
COMMISSARY	(301) 677-7463
GUEST HOUSE	(301) 677-5660
	(410) 672-1929
HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISOR	(301) 677-8982
ID CARDS	(301) 677-9586
ITT (TOURS AND TRAVEL)	(301) 677-7354
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(301) 677-9536
KIMBROUGH MED CLINIC	(301) 677-8392
POST EXCHANGE	(301) 677-7695
RSO	(301) 677-9603
VISITORS CONTROL CTR	(301) 677-1064
CASUALTY REPORTING	(301) 677-2902

### ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

CASUALTY REPORTING	(410) 306-2345
POST LOCATOR	(410) 278-5201
ACS	(410) 278-7572
COMMISSARY	(410) 278-3101
ID CARDS	(410) 306-2389
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(410) 278-1583
MEDICAL CLINIC	(410) 278-1719
POST EXCHANGE	(410) 272-6829
LOCAL RSO	(410) 306-2320

### FORT DETRICK

CASUALTY REPORTING	(301) 619-3286
POST LOCATOR	(301) 619-8000
ACS	(301) 619-2197
COMMISSARY	(301) 619-2616
ID CARDS	(301) 619-6635
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(301) 619-2643
MEDICAL CLINIC	(301) 619-7175
POST EXCHANGE	(301) 619-2262

## ID CARD NEWS

As the RSO, I have listened to many complaints about the waiting time to obtain a new ID Card. It can be quite a wait. With individuals obtaining CAC cards (this alone can take up to 15 -20 minutes per person) and all else hinging on computers, it can be up to a 4 hour wait at times. Please do not blame the person sitting at the

desk (it is easy to shoot the messenger). We are in the great computer age. A couple of tips that might alleviate headaches and frustration are:

1. Come early in the morning. They open at 0730.
2. Don't wait until the day before a holiday or the day before school begins.
3. Call ahead and check the wait time. You may do this by calling (301)677-9586.
4. Make an appointment. That's right! You can now make appointments by going to the following web address: <https://es.cac.navy.mil/signup.pl>. Select Fort Meade, MD location. I think you will be pleased.
5. Make sure you have 2 (two) forms of current identification. The ID Card section cannot accept any expired cards. This is not their rules but is in the DoD regulation.

### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS Colonel Bert L. Rice, USA (Ret)**

#### **Happy New Year!**

I would like to start my comments by offering thanks to many! By any measure, Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activities were well received and successful. Many who attended and participated expressed praise and thanks for the way RAD activities were conducted. They were enthusiastic about continuing the event and, so, the next RAD is currently scheduled for Friday, 17 October 2008 at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. Please make note of it and plan to attend.

On behalf of the Fort Meade Retiree Council, I extend my personal thanks to everyone who attended, even though it was a rainy day, and to all who supported the RAD in a variety of ways. Special thanks are extended to Installation Commander Colonel McCreedy and his staff; Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center Commander Colonel Cummings and her staff; Retirement Services Officer Stephen Ashley and his staff; all supporting individuals and organizations; and to include the Fort Meade Retiree Council.

You may have read or heard about Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Approved congressional legislation dictates that three agencies realign or co-locate at Fort Meade by not later than September 2011. These agencies include the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), the Defense Media Activities (DMA), and the Military Adjudication Activities (MAA). As you might imagine and I can attest,

the installation commander and his staff are very busy preparing for the arrival of these agencies. However, what you really need to know is that Fort Meade is about to change. Construction will begin in April 2008 to provide office and administrative space for DISA and construction of facilities for DMA and MAA will commence about a year later in 2009.

While construction is underway please be patient and be watchful and heed instructions so that you will be able to negotiate the installation in a safe manner. Please slow down and be watchful for construction workers who will be doing their jobs throughout the installation. An internal traffic study is being conducted now and we hope it will help provide information regarding upgrades to the current road/street network that will ultimately make it safer for pedestrians and vehicle drivers and their passengers. At the same time, studies are underway to address shuttle services on post as well as outside the installation. The bottom line is to be aware of what is happening and plan accordingly - but please be safe!

By now, you know about new taxes assessed on Maryland citizens and businesses. What may be less known is that the State is taking positive action on a number of veteran issues to include support of state cemeteries, increased death benefits to families who have a loved one killed in combat, establishment of a Gold Star Family License Plate, assistance to veterans with new VA claims, and a number of other legislative actions pending approval of the legislature. One legislative action that has not been fully implemented is the exemption of military retired pay from state and local income taxes. As you know, we were successful in getting \$5,000 exempt as a result of 2006 legislature action but nothing since. However, we have heard that the Governor and the legislature may try to pass appropriate legislation during this legislative session. If this is to happen it will be up to military retirees and their families to get involved - enough said on this issue!

Many other issues and concerns could be shared with you; however, in the interest of time and space, I would like for you to remain active both physically and mentally so that you may enjoy all the blessings that are ours. Can you possibly imagine living in any other country as great as the United States of America? I cannot! God Bless you and God Bless America!

All the best in 2008 to you and yours!

## HANDY WEB SITES

ARMY RETIREMENT SERVICES - <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/default.asp>

FORT MEADE RSO - <http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/rso-index.html>

ACAP - <http://www.acap.army.mil>

TRANSITION CENTERS -  
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/retire/tclist.htm>

RETIRED PAY CALC. -  
[http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/retirement/calc/02\\_highthree.html](http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/retirement/calc/02_highthree.html)

[http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/retirement/ad/04\\_redux.html](http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/retirement/ad/04_redux.html)

MYPAY - <https://mypay.dfas.mil>  
RETIRED PAY - <http://www.dod.mil/dfas>

SOCIAL SECURITY - <http://www.ssa.gov>

TSP - <http://www.tsp.gov>

CRSC - <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/crsc>  
CRSC FORM - <http://www.dod.mil/prhome/docs/DD2860T.pdf>

DoD ACTUARY - <http://www.dod.mil/actuary>

NEAREST ID CARD FAC. - <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>

SPACE A - <http://public.amc.af.mil/questions/topic.asp?id=380>

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

214 REQUEST - <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>

DoD TRAVEL - <http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtr.html>

FREEDOM TRAIN - <http://www.freedomteamsalute.com>

TRICARE ENROLLMENT IN DEERS - <http://www.ticare.osd.mil/deers>

USFHP - <http://www.usfhp.org>

DELTA DENTAL - <http://www.trdp.org>

TRICARE - <http://www.tricare.mil>  
TRICARE CLAIMS/EOBS - <http://www.mytricare.com>

PHARMACY - <http://www.expressscripts.com>

VA - <http://www.va.gov>

GULF WAR - <http://www.va.gov/gulfwar>  
VA INSURANCE - <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/default.htm>

# CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

*(to be completed by retired Soldier and/or spouse and kept in your files for your survivors to use)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired grade/rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enrolled in RSFPP, SBP (circle all that apply) Did you disenroll from SBP? YES NO  
VA Claim #:  
Eligible to draw VA disability compensation (even if not in receipt now): YES NO  
Receiving Social Security? YES NO If yes, age at which first received:  
Organ donor? YES NO (circle one)

Is there a living will? YES NO

## SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

## MARRIAGE INFORMATION

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Marriage (City, State, Country): \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD(REN) INFORMATION

Name	Birthdate	Address/Phone/E-mail	Capable of self-support?
------	-----------	----------------------	--------------------------

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## INSURANCE POLICIES

Policy #	Company	Amount (include "as of" date)	Beneficiary	Agent phone/E-mail/Web site
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

Policy# Company Type of coverage  
site

Agent phone/E-mail/Web  
site

**INVESTMENTS**

Type (IRA, CD, Mutual Fund) Company Amount (include "as of" date) Agent phone/E-mail/Web site

**BANK ACCOUNTS**

Bank Name Account # Type of Acct Amount (include "as of" date)  
Phone/Web site

**CREDITORS**

Name & Address Account # Balance Due (include "as of" date) Life insurance?  
Phone/E-mail

**BURIAL INFORMATION**

Who should be notified of your death:  
Name Relationship Address  
Phone/E-mail

Do you want a military honor guard? YES NO Do you want to be (circle one): Buried  
Cremated?

Have you purchased a burial plot? YES NO If yes, where?

Name, location of cemetery where you want to be buried:

Do you want to be buried in your uniform? YES NO If yes, where is it?

Do you want a memorial service? YES NO If yes, where?

Do you have a preference of funeral home? YES NO If yes, which one?

**LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS**

**DOCUMENT**

**LOCATION**

Living Will	_____
Current Retired Pay Statement	_____
Marriage Certificate (s)	_____
Divorce Decree(s)/property settlement(s) (from previous marriage(s) of retired Soldier or spouse)	_____
Death certificate(s) (from previous marriage(s) of retired Soldier or spouse)	_____
Birth certificates/adoption papers (retired Soldier, spouse, children)	_____
DD Form(s) 214 (Active Duty Discharge Record ) (for all periods)	_____
Retirement Orders	_____
Safe-Deposit Box List Contents	_____
Will	_____
Vehicle Registration & Title	_____
Insurance policies	_____
Investment papers	_____
Burial plot information	_____
Uniform for burial	_____
Medical and dental records	_____
Real Estate deeds	_____
Tax returns	_____

**PHONE/E-MAIL/WEB SITES**

**Army Casualty Operations** – contact right after retired Soldier’s death, call 1-800-626-3317; or, from overseas, call collect (703) 325-7990; e-mail [cmaocweb@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:cmaocweb@hoffman.army.mil); Web site <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/CMAOC/cmaoc.htm>

**Retirement Services Officer** (follow-up assistance) numbers are listed on pages 9-10 of printed *Echoes* and [homepage](#)

**VA** 1-800-827-1000; VA Insurance 1-800-669-8477; Web site <http://www.va.gov>

**Social Security** 1-800-772-1213; Web site <http://www.ssa.gov>

**Retired and Annuitant Pay** 1-800-321-1080; Web site <http://www.dod.mil/dfas>; Online account access: <https://myPay.dfas.mil>

**Update ID card information** 1-800-538-9552; (831) 583-2500; Lawyer

