

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The ninety-sixth meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at The Courses at Meade Club House, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, at 8:00 a.m. on 14 May 2005. In accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

a. The following members were present:

COL Bert L. Rice, USA Ret (Chairman)
SGM Kenneth L. McCall Sr., USA Ret (Co-Chairman)
COL Charles M. Shadle, USA Ret (APG)
COL Edward H, Uemura, USA Ret
LTC Jeanette Hammond, USA Ret
MAJ Edward Calhoun, Sr., USA Ret
CPT Arthur N. Rogers, III, USA Ret
CW2 Ricky Godbolt, USA Ret
CSM Barry Decker, USA Ret (APG)
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret
SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret
MSGT Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret
SSG Walter B. Hollman, Sr., USA Ret
Mrs Catherine Eckford
Mrs Cecille Morse

2. This being a breakfast meeting to honor COL & Mrs John W. Ives, Installation Commander, on the eve of their departure (COL Ives retirement), the meeting was called to order by COL Rice at 8:00 a.m., who reminded all of the purpose of this special meeting and who gave the invocation. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Installation Adjutant, was asked to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Breakfast followed. Afterwards, COL Rice paid tribute to COL & Mrs Ives, citing their many accomplishments that they achieved during their three year tenure and the positive influence that they had on the growth at Fort Meade, the partnerships that were bonded with both Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland, and the contributions to the quality of life for both the active and retired military communities. Gifts were then presented to the Ives, which was followed by remarks from COL Ives who addressed the following:

a. The many contributions made by the Retiree Council and how he depended on it for their counsel and advice.

b. How the Council is involved in many areas providing leadership to many organizations in both the military and civilian communities.

c. That nobody in this select group of people ever really retire, but remain active by being involved and making full use

of leadership and management skills learned and developed in the military.

d. The need to become more involved to effect a positive ending to the tax exemption of military retired pay legislation introduced in the Maryland General Assembly and the support that he will continue to provide for same because he would like to see the 48 mile corridor between Baltimore and Washington, DC, become one that is high tech attracting young military retirees to the area that possess the many skills that are needed to effect that change.

e. The reason Fort Meade fared so well in the recent BRAC announcement was due mostly to the vision of what Fort Meade could be, the many attributes it had to offer and the cost effectiveness of their proposals that were presented during preliminary meetings. This allowed Fort Meade to receive what they requested. (Kudos were give to COL Rice for the part that he played in this endeavor.) Fort Meade will gain Soldiers Magazine, Naval Media Center, Army Broadcasting-Soldier Radio/TV, Air Force News Agency and Army Hometown News Service and the Armed Forces Information Service. Additionally, various DoD, Air Force and Navy security elements will relocate here as well as a "Combatant Commander Development and Acquisition Activity". Fort Meade will also be allowed to construct a super store complex to house AAFES and commissary and associated activities. COL Ives shared what the future holds for he and his family that included employment with an organization that will allow him the opportunity to continue to work in the intelligence arena as well as the opportunity to follow through to fruition the many initiatives started while serving as the Installation Commander.

SGM McCall thanked COL Ives for the personal interest that he took in improving the lines of communication with the military retired community and for fostering within his staff a caring attitude. Many of his successes can be directly attributed to his religious belief through which all things are made possible. NOTE: COL Ives Change of Command ceremony is scheduled for 30 June 2005.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2005, which was accepted by the Council. He also introduced the following guest:

a. LTC Shelby Bell, Commander, Headquarters Command Battalion, who remarked on the following:

- (1) The follow-up to emergency services offered by the military police and provided a card listing

emergency telephone numbers that is being distributed post-wide.

- (2) Planned visits to service members that are casualties of war and the plans to host them here at Fort Meade, for festivities.
- (3) Provided a folder for each attendee that contained:
 - o An engraved pocket-sized notebook and pencil.
 - o Personal emergency flasher light.
 - o An "Army of One" bumper sticker.
 - o A list of upcoming events at Fort Meade.
 - o A flyer on the Armed Services Blood Program.

NOTE: LTC Bell is being reassigned to the Pentagon and her Change of Command ceremony is on 24 June 2005.

COL Ives announced that LTC Bell was recently honored for having the number one rated battalion in the National Capital Area.

b. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Installation Adjutant, who also remarked on the Blood Drive program that would be conducted on a recurring basis. SGM McCall presented a concern that pertained to safety at the entrance to Fort Meade at Mapes Road and Route 175 during the hours between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Security guards fail to open the second entrance lane which causes traffic to backup out into the intersection creating a hazard that could cause a serious accident. They wait until the hazard has been created before the second lane is opened. We know that the plans to improve the entrance way is being finalized, but there is a need for immediate resolution. (LTC Bell is to follow-up on this.)

4. RSO REMARKS: Mr. Ashley reported on the following:

a. Newsletter articles have been received and it should be published on time.

b. Retiree Appreciation Day weekend update:

- (1) Because of the US Army Field Band commitments, they will not be able to provide music for the social on 16 September 2005. (Thought - Could the APG band do this?)
- (2) Names of the panel members for the discussion on 17 September 2005 are needed as soon as possible. (SGM McCall submitted the name of COL John F. Sackett, Chief, CSRC Division, who has committed himself for same, and suggested that the KACC Commander be invited as well.)
- (3) The main entrée for the Friday Social will be poultry.

(4) The newsletter will contain more information on the weekend activities.

c. The Army Retirement Services program will celebrate its 50th anniversary this fall. More on this will follow.

d. Thanked COL Ives and LTC Bell for the outstanding support he and the retired community received from them during their tenure at Fort Meade.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. COL Rice addressed the Surviving Spouse Benefit Symposium, scheduled for 11 June 2005:

(1) How many had registered? Mrs Morse reported 126 and that more request continue to arrive and that up to 180 can be accommodated.

(2) The names of the speakers that will be participating must be finalized. Mr. Ashley reported that he had received same.

NOTE: SGM McCall reported that a door prize for the event had been contributed by the Commissary and that AAFES will be doing the same. Mrs Morse stated that the Commissary is also providing a cake.

b. SGM McCall reported on the failure of the bills to exempt military retired pay from state and local taxes and the action the community must take to ensure passage during the next legislative season, especially since it is an election year. (COL Ives and COL Rice added comments of their own supporting the premise that military retirees must take the initiative in this regard. COL Ives, also spoke of the conversation that he has had with state legislators in which the benefits to the state were emphasized.)

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. COL Rice commented on the following:

(1) One of the issues addressed by the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council, pertained to the need to support the casualties of war and their families once they have returned home and the rehabilitating process continues. Fort Meade had submitted this concern also (see 11 December 2004, Council minutes), but was not recognized for same. The need to provide suggested support is evident as published in recent news media articles.

(2) The need for retirees to take the initiative and plan for their Long Term Health Care.

(3) Some of the changes being proposed relative to VA care.

b. SGM McCall reported that there are several changes underway in the Tricare system that will affect military retirees and suggested that the new Tricare Coordinator at KACC be invited to conduct a presentation on same at the Council's 27 August 2005 meeting. SGM Gilbert suggested that the Clinic Commander be invited as well. (LTC Hammond is to coordinate the same.)

7. APG UPDATE:

a. COL Shadle commented on the following:

- (1) The concerns caused by a new initiative, REC-TRACK, that pertains to the Morale Welfare and Recreation agency requiring the use and including ones social security number on checks, etc., giving rise to identity theft fears.
- (2) Their RAD is scheduled for 22 October 2005, and their speaker will be from MOAA (Military Officers Association of America). Also, they will dine at one of the installation's dining facilities.
- (3) The BRAC announcement indicates that APG may lose 3,411 military billets, but gain 5,371 civilian slots. And, with the relocation of the Ordnance School, a student body of approximately 4,500 will be lost.

b. CSM Decker in response to SGM McCall's question relative to the impact the losses may have on the APG credit union, he stated that it would be slight due mainly to their large member-owner base.

NOTE: As it pertains to BRAC, many tend to forget the impact that it has on an installation credit union if there is a large loss of membership or the installation closes. Many fail to prepare for this economic impact.

8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: No report, representative not in attendance.

9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

a. COL Uemura reported that a meeting was not held and could not ascertain the reason for same. He stated that there were planned changes in the operation at Kimbrough and asked LTC Hammond to offer comments.

b. LTC Hammond stated that the majority of the changes center around the Warrior Clinic concept that becomes effective on 6 June 2005, and pertains to service to the active duty.

10. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs Morse reported that she had not been made aware of any scheduled meetings and would find out if any are planned.

NOTE: COL Rice thanked Mrs Morse for organizing the breakfast meeting and applause was rendered.

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: Mrs Eckford had no formal report to render other than the success of the Case Lot sale that was conducted. (COL Ives elaborated on this event also.)

12. CO-CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: SGM McCall remarked on the following:

a. Items of interest from his Maryland Veterans Commission meeting:

- (1) Concerns expressed by Maryland Governor Robert H. Ehrlich, Jr., relative to the tax exemption bills not passing and his plans to reintroduce same in 2006. (A copy of a letter from him to veterans citing his position was made available to attendees.)
- (2) Plans for special events recognizing the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII have been made and announcements on these events will follow.
- (3) Permission was granted to fly the POW flag at the WWII memorial in Annapolis.
- (4) Grants were received to improve Maryland Veterans Cemeteries.

b. Distributed a handout that contained web site information for healthcare.

c. A Job Fair for persons 50 years and older was being held in Glen Burnie on 20 May 2005.

d. Announced the Council's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005:

Saturday - 27 August (final preparation for RAD)

Saturday - 3 December

NOTE: Tentative for 2006:

Saturday - 4 March

Saturday - 3 June

13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

a. MAJ Calhoon spoke of the lack of cashiers in the PX on recent Thursday afternoon. COL Ives remarked that staffing has been adjusted to coincide with "selling items", a management tool used to provide more staff at peak hours and reduces operating cost, the savings which are passed on to the customers.

b. LTC Hammond remarked on the oppressive heat experienced in the PX recently. COL Ives addressed this concern as well by stating that the post is in the process of preparing equipment for seasonal changeover and also effecting repairs needed.

c. CW2 Godbolt reported on the progress of the Council's web page that he is establishing. Final coordination will be made between COL Rice, SGM McCall and Mr. Ashley.

d. COL Ives again thanked the Council for their contributions citing the 238,000 plus volunteer hours provided by all Installation Volunteers, has an annual value of over \$3.8 million dollars.

e. COL Rice extended an invitation to COL Ives to visit with the Council and our meetings whenever his area schedule coincides with one of our meetings.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. with a reminder that the next meeting of the council is scheduled for Saturday, 8:00 a.m., 27 August 2005, at 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade.

BERT L. RICE
COL, USA Ret
Chairman, Fort Meade
Retiree Council

KENNETH L. MCCALL, SR.
SGM, USA Ret
Co-Chairman, Fort Meade
Retiree Council