

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The ninety-eighth meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at building 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, at 9:00 a.m. on 3 December 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
LtCdr Sam L. Bridwell, Sr., USN Ret (Western Maryland)
MAJ Edward Calhoon, USA Ret
MAJ William S. Heath, USA Ret
CPT Arthur N. Rogers, III, USA Ret
CW2 Ricky Godbolt, USA Ret
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret
1SG Richard Gillman, USA Ret
MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret
SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret
MSGT Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret
Mrs. Catherine Eckford
Mrs Cecille Morse

2. The meeting was called to order with a welcome from COL Rice. The invocation was given by SFC DePorto, followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance led by MSGt Plummer.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2005, which was accepted by the Council. He remarked on the exceptional retirement ceremony that he attended which was held at the McGill Center that included remarks and stories of the retirees and the commitment of those that served in the past and present. (COL McCreedy commented on this item as well.) COL Rice then presented Volunteer Award Certificates signed by the former Installation Commander, COL John Ives, to Council members. He was assisted by SGM McCall. COL Rice then introduced the following guest:

a. COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, who thanked the Council for all that they do for the military community. He commended the Council and the Retirement Services Staff for coordinating a great Retiree

Appreciation Day weekend and spoke of the volume of positive feedback that he had received. He also mentioned the Veterans Day activities conducted on post and at the BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport that was supported by the military from Fort Meade. He also spoke of the 12 nation tribute paid during the wreath laying ceremony at the Pershing Grave Site Ceremony in Arlington Cemetery on 11 November 2005. COL McCreedy invited all to the holiday festivities planned by the installation. MSgt Plummer informed COL McCreedy that the traffic speeding problem at the Rockenbach Road gate appears to have been corrected and thanked him for his attention to same. COL Uemura addressed the need to correct the traffic problem created at the intersection of Mapes Road and Ernie Pyle when turning vehicles obstruct the pathway of vehicles trying to proceed on Mapes Road. (COL McCreedy is to check in to same.) LtCdr Bridwell mentioned the observance of Pearl Harbor Day at the inner harbor in Baltimore. (COL Rice provided additional information on the ceremony.)

b. Mr. Frank M. Macias, Fort Meade Commissary, who reported on the following:

(1) The Korean food promotion taking place at the commissary that includes cooking demonstrations. (COL McCreedy mentioned that he had attended one of the sessions.)

(2) The Commissary Scholarship Program that opened on 1 December 2005 and extends through February 2006, and that family members of active and retired military can apply for same.

(3) The need for cashiers at the commissary and that the shortage may be affecting sales. (SGM McCall mentioned the talk that he had with Mr. Paul Rhodes, Commissary Manager, relative to this concern and the fact that he has done an area blitz trying to recruit from the various colleges and universities in the area and did not have much success. He suggested to Mr. Rhodes that an ad be placed in our newsletter informing of the shortage and their needs.) MSG Barron queried as to the person responsible for hiring baggers, because she had applied and had not received a reply. (Macias is to check on this concern.) COL Uemura reported that the produce people are very responsible and provides timely assistance on most occasions. SGM Gilbert expressed the need to police the self checkout lanes, because customers are abusing the item limits creating backups for other customers. Mr. Macias stated that they are aware of the problem and they are

trying to resolve the same. SGM McCall reported that he has seen the Monitor redirect violators and in some cases, have cut them off. Suggestions included a pop-up warning on the screen, that the customer is nearing their lane limit and will not accept beyond the posted limit. If the customers fail to adhere, then their privilege should be restricted. SGM McCall remarked on a news article that he had read which alluded to the possibility of produce operations at commissaries being contracted out. (Macias had not heard of this proposal.) Mr. Macias thanked the Council and the retiree community for all that they do to make the commissary successful.

c. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Installation AG, remarked on the Blood Drive being conducted at the McGill Center on 12 December 2005, from 9:15 am to 1:00 pm. For an appointment, call (301) 677-5406.

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

a. RAD 2005 - Participants all thought that it was a great event and there were 175 in attendance on 17 September 2005. Good reviews on the panel concept were received and that not enough time was devoted to same. (COL Uemura remarked that the panel members did not know each other and their area of expertise which seemed to create a problem.)

b. RAD 2006 - COL Mielkarek, KACC Commander has suggested to him that it be held at KACC, making it a one day event. Mr. Ashley reported that it would take place on 27 October 2006, a Friday, with the social being a casual affair, held at Club Meade that evening. SGM McCall suggested that we solicit a vendor to donate a bagged lunch meal which would eliminate the need for participants to leave the facility to purchase same. A similar meal has been provided in the past. An outline will be put together for the Council to review.

c. Articles for the newsletter are due in today. (COL Shadle stated that he had to make a correction to the article that he has submitted.)

5. OLD BUSINESS: COL Rice reported on the need to support attempts to have Military Retired Pay made tax exempt in Maryland. The Bills, House Bill #35 and Senate Bill #22 are being introduced in January 2006, and an all out effort is being made to get them approved. SGM McCall asked COL McCreedy if permission could be granted to the Council to man tables at the Commissary and PX where literature could be distributed that would seek the support of Maryland

residents in contacting their state legislative representatives asking them to support the aforementioned bills. COL McCreedy stated that he would have his JAG officer investigate the legality of the same and then provide us with a reply. Several of the Council members expressed their intent to participate.

6. NEW BUSINESS: None.

7. APG UPDATE: COL Shadle commented on the success of their RAD and that the handouts that were distributed were well received. Comments from attendees listed this as one of their better RAD's. He also commented on mail received that pertained to a Cold War Museum. (COL Rice mentioned that a museum currently exists and was unsure of the reason for this current interest being shown.)

8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LtCdr Bridwell had nothing to report.

9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: COL Uemura reported missing the meeting because of misinformation, but he had the following to remark on:

a. The KACC Dental Clinic is closing and their personnel are being relocated to the Epps Dental Clinic. Vacated space is to be reallocated.

b. An Orthopedic Surgeon has been assigned to KACC.

c. The Laboratory is being reorganized and that others in the KACC will be utilized to assist them during rush hours.

d. Their communication/computer system is being upgraded and is scheduled to be completed in February 2006. Minimal disruption is expected.

e. A new telephone number for some KACC appointments is (301) 677-8800.

10. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs Morse reported that a new orientation book is planned for newcomers and spouses.

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk reiterated the need for cashiers at the commissary. He also saw and spoke with COL Edwin J. Wolf at the commissary, who sent his regards that he still wants to retain his seat on the Council and that as soon as he is fully mobile, he will return. (COL Rice suggested that we include COL Wolf on our Holiday card list.) Mrs. Eckford stated that she had nothing to add to the above at this time.

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

a. The Veterans Day Program presented to the 6th grade class at the Severna Park Middle School by members of the Council (Steve Ashley, SFC DePorto and SGM McCall. 1SG Boris Spiroff, joined the Team that afternoon). Mrs. Christine Federroll, a 6th grade teacher at the school, had invited SGM McCall to come to the school to share his military experience with the students. The Team accepted their invitation for next year.

b. A letter received from US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, in which she writes of the concerns relative to the planned development and usage of the Perry Point VA Medical Center.

c. The Maryland Veterans Commission meeting was held at Fort Meade's Club Meade on 25 October 2005. COL McCreedy was a guest speaker, a video of the 29th Infantry Division veterans sharing their experience in World War II was shown (a copy was presented to COL McCreedy) and a tour of the museum was conducted. SGM McCall (a Commissioner on the Maryland Veterans Commission), thanked COL McCreedy for his support of the meeting and also for the support given to the Task Force for a Maryland Women's Veteran Monument planned for the State.

d. Concern for the lack of mentioning the support that Volunteers provide to the installation in the Soundoff newspaper article published on 1 December 2005. Apologies were issued for the oversight.

e. Announced the Council's meeting schedule for 2006:
Saturday - 4 March
Saturday - 3 June
Saturday - 30 September
Saturday - 9 December

13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

a. MSG Barron asked if Retiree Councils have National Conventions and if so, who attends. (SGM McCall stated that they had been conducted in the past, were worldwide and the RSO's Chair and Co-Chair's attended. Lack of funding revised the program and they are now held in the US with only the RSO's attending.) COL Rice suggested that we make this an issue for the Army Chief of Staff's conference.

b. COL Rice mentioned that with anniversary celebrations planned for Fort Meade (90th and 100th), that we should consider organizing military balls for each. The

Council agreed.

c. SFC DePorto presented SGM McCall with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Citizenship Education Award for his work in promoting the patriotic principles of the VFW by taking the story of the Veteran to schools and other public gatherings. (SGM McCall stated his appreciation of the recognition.)

d. SGM McCall thanked the Council for their hard work and dedication, and COL McCreedy for his continued support.

14. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. with a reminder that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Saturday, 9:00 a.m., 4 March 2006, 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