

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The ninety-ninth 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 4 March 2006. 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 Erwin A. Burtnick, USA Ret (new member)
COL Charles M. Shadle, USA Ret (APG)
COL Edward H, Uemura, USA Ret
LTC Jeanette Hammond, USA Ret
LtCdr Sam L. Bridwell, Sr., USN Ret (Western Maryland)
MAJ William S. Heath, 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
MSG James W. Lickliter, USA Ret
SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret
MSGT Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret
SFC James Wafer, USA Ret
SSG Walter B. Hollman, USA Ret
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 SGM Gilbert.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2005, which was accepted by the Council. He read the resignation letter submitted by CPT Arthur N. Rogers III, USA Ret, in which he cited medical reasons for having to leave. (SGM McCall recommended that we award CPT Rogers a Commanders Citation which COL McCreedy concurred.) COL Rice cited the many contributions made by CPT Rogers that was of great benefit to both active and retired military. COL Burtnick, a new member to the Council, was introduced and welcomed by COL Rice. COL Rice also addressed the following:

a. The possible increase in TRICARE fees for those military retirees enrolled and under the age of 65. (SGM

McCall remarked on the news article that alluded to the fact that those over 65 may face an increase in the future.)

b. A news article pertaining to the top areas that are being selected for retirement and how Maryland fared with same.

c. The "Still Serving" newsletter has been mailed and that articles for the next one should be submitted by 3 June 2006.

d. Distribution to each, the Fort George G. Meade Adult Volunteer Registration Form and the need to complete and return same. (COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, provided additional information relative to the purpose and need for the form and encouraged all to submit.)

e. Introduced COL McCreedy who remarked on the following:

(1) Extended his appreciation for the tremendous support the military retired community provides him and the installation.

(2) The influx of new units to Fort Meade, resulting from BRAC that will include an Asymmetric Warfare Group, an infantry division headquarters unit and First Army East. Because of the need to provide space for these units, McGill service center and other similar buildings may not be available to hold functions like the Retiree Activity Day, etc, for they will be used to provide space for the aforementioned.

(3) The Meade High School Baccalaureate Program that was approved by the School Board.

(4) His meeting with Governor Robert Ehrlich and local government leaders to discuss issues relative to BRAC and the impact on the communities local to Fort Meade that included housing, schools, transportation and the like.

(5) Budget constraints that are affecting some programs at Fort Meade and how they are meeting the challenges presented.

(6) Questions to and answers from COL McCreedy:

(a) SGM Gilbert - with the arrival of new troops, will medical care, especially TRICARE, and military retired still have access to KACC? COL McCreedy - He does not anticipate any change in the quality of care currently received.

(b) SGM Funk - Are there plans to upgrade the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to accommodate the additional traffic? COL McCreedy - Improvements are scheduled and time to meet the growing needs on all local and other

affected roadways are being addressed.

(c) SFC Wafer - What will be the composition of the force structure? COL McCreedy - There will be active duty, federal civilian employees and contract workers.

NOTE: COL McCreedy stated that he would like for the Council to provide additional feedback on the BRAC impact issue, because he valued our concerns.

COL Rice thanked the Installation Commander for taking the time from his busy schedule to join us today.

f. Introduced MAJ Stover, Chief, Community Health Nursing, KACC, who stated that he was present to obtain additional information on our Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activity because he is a Project Officer for same.

4. RSO REMARKS: Mr. Ashley reported on the following:
- a. The need to update the Council's information roster and circulated a form for same.
 - b. Provided an update on our next RAD, a one day event scheduled for Friday, 27 October 2006, at KACC:
 - (1) Information and Healthcare booths at KACC.
 - (2) Club Meade for the social and dinner. (SGM McCall stated that there should be arrangements made for lunch because those that would have to leave for same, may not return if they have to leave. COL Rice suggested having lunch at the new dining facility and possibly provide bus transportation for same.)

NOTE: It was decided that at our 3 June 2006 meeting, we devote more time to planning/organizing the RAD event and appointing Council members to oversee specific area. ALL AGREED.

(3) Because of the space issue, our next meeting may not be in building #2234. COL McCreedy offered the use of space in Hodges Hall, building number 4551.

5. OLD BUSINESS: COL Rice remarked on the current status of the Maryland Tax Exemption Bill for Military Retirees and the fact that it is weighted down with other recommendations and may affect chances of passage. COL Burtnick added additional comments. COL Rice also remarked on his meeting with the JAG relative to the Councils intent to distribute information about the bill, on post. A decision has not been rendered at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS: None.
 7. APG UPDATE: COL Shadle stated:
 - a. That they too have had talks with their state delegates and senators relative to the tax exempt bill.
 - b. Plans for this year's RAD are being made.
 - c. Issues to the BRAC influx are being identified and will be addressed at future meetings with installation officials.
 - d. APG is planning to celebrate their 90th anniversary in 2007 with some events taking place in December 2006. (COL McCreehy stated that Fort Meade will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2007 and planning is also underway to include celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017.)
 8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LtCdr Bridwell reported that:
 - a. Their RAD is scheduled for 30 September 2006.
 - b. Concerns have been received from the community relative to the rising cost of healthcare and fears relative to the quality of care are being talked about.
 9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: COL Uemura remarked that:
 - a. An Orthopedic Surgeon has been added to the KACC staff.
 - b. The Commander's wing is being renovated to accommodate some special clinics.
 - c. Physical therapy appointments may be limited in the near future.
 10. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs. Morse reported that they are busy identifying newcomers to the installation so that they could be invited to the next AFAP meeting in late spring.
 11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk reported that there has been improvement in all areas of the checkout lanes.
- NOTE: MSG Barron issued a concern relative to her failed attempts to be hired as a bagger. SGM Funk advised her to contact the Commissary Manager relative to the issue raised.
12. CO-CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: SGM McCall remarked on the following:
 - a. A program that he attended at which US Senator

Barack Obama was the guest speaker and that he stated that he had been assigned to the Veterans Affairs Committee. There is a need for Veterans Service Organizations to contact the Senator and share their concerns with him.

b. A letter sent by US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and her colleagues, to President Bush urging him to give appropriate attention and priority to the needs of our nations returning service members and veterans in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposal that he would soon be submitting to Congress. They concluded their letters by stating, "Your support will go a long way in keeping the promises we have made to our nation's veterans.

NOTE: Senator Mikulski's Veterans Advisory Board will meet on 22 March 2006, which he plans to attend.

c. The Maryland Veterans Commission meeting of 31 January 2006, was held in Baltimore and of interest to military retirees were:

(1) There were 78 bills introduced in the Maryland State legislature that pertained to veterans. You can access their web site to obtain the contents of each.

(2) The FY 2005 federal budget shorted the US Department of Veterans Affairs and that FY06 budget contains \$22.5 billion for veterans that includes \$14 million for prosthetic research and alternative medicine.

d. Announced the Council's meeting schedule for 2006:
Saturday - 3 June 2006 (Planning for RAD, 27 October 2006, and turning of newsletter articles).

Saturday - 30 September 2006 (Final planning for RAD and planning for the 90th Anniversary Ball).

Saturday - 9 December 2006 (Articles for the newsletter due and issues for the US Army Chief's of Staff Retirees Council to address).

Saturday - 3 March 2007 (tentative) (Planning for the 90th Anniversary).

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. SFC DePorto shared remarks relative to the USO and its upcoming events.

b. SGM McCall thanked the Council for their involvement and support of the Retiree Council and COL McCreedy for his support and that of his staff.

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., 3 June 2006, at 4551 Llewellyn Ave, 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