

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one hundredth 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 June 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  
COL Edwin J. Wolf, USA Ret  
LTC Jeanette Hammond, USA Ret  
LTC Louis F. Schneider, 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  
CSM Barry Decker, USA Ret (APG)  
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret  
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret  
MSG Barbara Barron, 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 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. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: After the introduction of COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, he, COL Rice and SGM McCall conducted a ceremony in which the following awards were presented to members of the Fort Meade Retiree Council:

a. Commanders Award for Public Service was presented to COL Wolf and CPT Rogers for their outstanding service to our Retiree Council; COL Wolf since July 1973 and CPT

Rogers since December 1985 to include a four (4) year term on the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council. COL McCreedy thanked them both for their many contributions, years of service and dedication to the mission of the Retiree Council.

NOTE: COL Wolf was recognized for having celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2006.

b. COL McCreedy also presented the Installation Management Agency - Northeast Region, Army Volunteer Corps, Certificate of Appreciation to those members of the Council eligible to receive same.

c. COL McCreedy's Remarks:

(1) Discussed the positive impact volunteer service has on the quality of life issues and operational needs at Fort Meade and because of the unselfish contributions of time and material by the military retired community, the installation continues to function at the level expected.

(2) The installation has had a reduction in budget funding, but with some sacrifices, they will meet mission requirements. Pool #4 will not open because of limited resources to make it operational. Arrangements were made to have local community pools available to service members and their families.

(3) Fort Meade has introduced a new logo that reflects its joint mission/installation status.

(4) Troop support is limited at Fort Meade. When soldiers leave, replacements are not received.

(5) A regional effort between Anne Arundel and Howard counties, and Fort Meade, in making plans to address area needs to meet the impact of BRAC, has been in effect for some time and has proven fruitful.

(6) An update on the progress being made to celebrate the post's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007 and its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, was given.

(7) MDW approved construction of another security gate at Fort Meade that will streamline accessibility at one of its entrances.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2006, and accepted a correction that omitted MSG Barron as being in attendance. The Council accepted the minutes. COL Rice introduced the following speakers:

a. Ms Katherine Abey, Office of Congressman Wayne T.

Gilchrest, in coordination with the Library of Congress, addressed the work that her local team is doing to capture the living history of veterans in Maryland through the Veterans History Project. After her power point presentation and distribution of handouts, Ms Abey addressed questions. SGM McCall suggested that she be offered a booth at our upcoming RAD from which she could interview military retirees in attendance. COL McCreedy concurred and will coordinate with a local college to assist her in same.

b. Mr Leo Bitner, new General Manager, Fort Meade Consolidated Exchange, introduced himself and remarked on the outstanding support that the Exchange receives from the retired military community and addressed the following:

(1) Seventy-one percent of the profit made by the Exchange is given to the MWR fund.

(2) Local prices are checked weekly to ensure that exchange prices are competitive.

(3) Improvements that are being made now and those planned for the future which includes a car wash.

(4) Strategic plans have been made that includes a "mall" concept that would be accessible without having to enter the installation.

(5) The Exchange's "Buddy List" that authorized patrons can use to register their e-mail address with the exchange allowing them to receive immediate information on promotions, sales, etc. (CW2 Godbolt remarked that Fort Belvoir has introduced the same concept.)

(6) Questions, Answers and Comments:

(a) SGM Gilbert commented on the upgrades being made, the cleanliness of the restrooms and asked why the shopette located in the DINFOS area that was recently closed? (COL McCreedy stated that closure was heat related and that repairs had to be made to its cooling system.)

(b) MSG Barron remarked on the quality of service improvements that have been made.

c. Mr. Paul Rhodes, former Commissary Officer who recently retired, took the opportunity to thank the Council for all of the support given him during the tenure at Fort Meade. The Council thanked him for making the Commissary an enjoyable shopping experience and for raising its standard of service. They also wished him well in his retirement.

d. Mr. Frank Macias, interim Commissary Officer, reported on:

(1) The pending arrival of Mr Rhodes' replacement, Ms Barbara Sannino.

(2) The four \$1500.00 scholarships awarded to Fort Meade recipients.

(3) The Early Bird shopping hours, 7:00am to 9:00am, Monday through Friday (no holidays) limited to 15 items and checkout through the Self-Checkout machines, was introduced.

(4) The Commissary will be opened on 4 July 2006, from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

(5) A mega case lot sale is scheduled for September 2006.

(6) Improvements that have been made in the cashier service.

(7) The price comparisons that are conducted locally.

(8) Questions, Answers and Comments:

(a) SFC DePorto commented on the improvements in packaging.

(b) SFC Wafer remarked on the improved display setups.

e. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Director of Human Resources, reported on the following:

(1) The upcoming installation Blood Drive that is to be conducted and will allow the military to provide blood at no cost to its recipients (the Red Cross charges \$300.00 per pint).

(2) The ID Card Section will experience delays in its service as improvements are made and new military ID cards are having security chips imbedded in them.

f. Donald Hirst, reporter and photographer from the Sound Off newspaper, thanked the Council for allowing him to be a part of its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting and to observe its proceedings.

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

a. Fort Meade will not host the Twilight Tadoo this year, but will in 2007 and each alternating year thereafter.

b. The RSO now has its own web page and information relative to same will be published in our next newsletter.

c. Retiree Appreciation Day updates (27 October 2006):

(1) KACC is preparing to host same at its facility, from 8:00am to 4:00pm

(2) Lunch will be served at the new installation

dining facility and shuttle buses are being planned to transport diners to same.

(3) Dinner is to be served at Club Meade during our social event at a cost of \$14.50.

(4) Not all organizations have responded to their invitation to participate. Follow-up calls are to be made. SATO has submitted their intention to attend.

6. OLD BUSINESS: SGM McCall reminded all of the need for RAD door prizes. Several Council members expressed their intent to do same to include Ms Abey, Mr Bitner and Mr Macias.

7. NEW BUSINESS: SGM McCall suggested that the local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs be contracted to ascertain if they can provide copies of the 2006 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, for distribution to our Council members as this will aid them when providing counsel.

8. APG UPDATE: COL Shadle reported that their RAD is scheduled for 21 October 2006, at which the post's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be discussed.

9. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LtCdr Bridwell stated that Fort Ritchie is scheduled to host their RAD but did not know the date. Carlisle Barracks will host their RAD on 9 December 2006.

10. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: COL Uemura stated that he would be away for the next KAC meeting. (Depending on her schedule, maybe LTC Hammond could attend.) SGM Gilbert questioned whether the clinic has the ability to conduct heart scans, provide dermatology treatment to authorized patients and if eye appointments are available to family members? SGM McCall stated that some service is available and dependent on the need. (Questions are to be pursued.)

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk thanked Mr Rhodes for a job well done, as did Mrs Eckford.

12. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs Morse reported that the next planned event is the Family Symposium scheduled for 14 and 15 September 2006, and that volunteers to serve as committee leaders are needed. Interested Council members are to contact Mr Ashley.

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

a. The letter he received from U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., (Delaware) that thanked him and his team for educating school children about veterans, their service and contributions and the role of the military in November 2005 on Veterans Day. He also stated that initiatives like ours support his efforts and resolutions designating a National Veterans Awareness Week. SGM McCall had extended an invitation to others to join our team for future appearances, but there have been no responses to date.

b. The conversation he had with local politicians while participating in the Memorial Day 2006 ceremony at the Crownsville Maryland Veterans Cemetery that pertained to the modified Tax Exemption Bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly and the unifying efforts of military retirees to make it happen. It was inspiring to them to see the retirees act as one and to focus on the issue was indicative of the influence they would wield. (With the upcoming elections, military retirees can use their sphere of influence to execute change for the better, if properly applied.)

c. The Maryland Bills that were passed that affected the military, military retirees and veterans were discussed and handouts were provided.

d. Fraud alert and his experience when he went to make a deposit at a bank. He did not have his account number and the teller asked for his social security number. When it was entered, it also displayed a woman's name along with his indicating that she had received several commercial loans using his SSN. He took the proper steps to address the problem, as did the bank. He urged Council members to check using their SSN to see if a similar problem may exist with their accounts.

e. The death of former Council member MSG James R. Taylor, Sr., on 7 April 2006. He asked that the family be remembered in their prayers.

f. Parking at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center has been increased for disabled patients near the building with non-handicapped parking spaces being decreased. This results in many older clients that do not qualify for handicapped tags, having to park up to 100 yards away and have to walk under extreme weather conditions to the clinic. An alternative to this plight should be considered.

g. Names of volunteers to assist with the RAD on 27 October 2006 were accepted. They are:

COL Burtnik	COL Uemura	LTC Hammond
LtCdr Bridwell	MAJ Heath	SGM Funk
SGM Gilbert	MSG Barron	Mrs Morse
Ms Abey		

h. The Council's meeting scheduled for 2006/2007 was announced:

Saturday - 30 September 2006 (Final planning for RAD 27 Oct 06 and planning for a possible 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Military Ball and a date for the 2007 RAD).

Saturday - 9 December 2006 (Submit items for the US Army Chief's of Staff Retirees Council to address).

Saturday - 3 March 2007 (tentative) (Planning for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

Saturday - 2 June 2007 (tentative)

Saturday - 29 September 2007 (tentative)

Saturday - 1 December 2007 (tentative)

14. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

a. Questions were raised relative to the possibility of some of the installations food establishments being opened beyond 9:00pm to serve guesthouse customers and others. (This is to be studied.)

b. LtCdr Bridwell provided information pertaining to hearing aids.

c. Don Hirst assembled the Council for a group picture and the cutting of the cake provided by the Commissary in celebration of the Council's 100<sup>th</sup> meeting spanning the years 1973 to the present.

b. SGM McCall thanked the Council and the Staff for their support of the military retiree community.

15. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am with a reminder that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Saturday, 9:00am, 30 September 2006, at 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade.

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

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