

## FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one hundred and sixth (106) 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 1 December 2007. 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 Burtnick, USA Ret  
LTC Jeanette Hammond, USA Ret  
LTC James A. Kesselring, USA Ret (Western MD)  
MAJ William S. Heath, USA Ret  
CSM Barry Decker, USA Ret (APG)  
CSM Sandra Matlock-Williams, USA Ret  
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret  
MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret  
SFC Robert Caswell, 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 COL Rice.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed with the council, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2007. SGM McCall noted that the name of attendee SFC Robert Caswell was omitted from the final typing. The minutes were unanimously approved. COL Rice then introduced Ms Barbara Sannino, Fort Meade Commissary Officer who remarked on the following:

a. The cookie baking contest being conducted by the commissary and the prizes being awarded. The cookies will be donated to the troops serving abroad. Those wishing to donate cookies to the program may do so through 3 December.

b. The DECA Scholarship program, which is vendor supported, is accepting applications for same. She also announced the number and amount of scholarships previously awarded.

c. The holiday closing schedule: Christmas eve, early closing; closed Christmas and New Years.

d. The 20 item limit at both the express lane and self-checkout lanes is now being enforced. (The SoundOff article by COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, addressing this concern was discussed.)

e. Price changes on most items reflecting an increase or decrease in cost are normally made on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

f. Questions, answers and comments:

(1) SFC Caswell - some handicapped lanes are not wheelchair accessible because they are blocked. (This will be looked into immediately and suggested that concerns requiring immediate action, be brought to the attention of the manager on duty immediately.)

(2) Mrs. Morse - remarked on a certain brand of evaporated milk that was not in-stock and the problems associated with ordering same. (Guidance was provided on how to resolve similar concerns.)

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

a. The success of RAD 2007. A lot of positive feedback was received as well as suggestions on improvements. The morning attendance was approximately 250. The afternoon session at the post theater was low mostly due to the rain and limited parking even though bus transportation was made available from the distant parking lots. Also, there were two "no shows" from the organizations that indicated their participation.

b. RAD 2008 is planned for 17 October 2008. Several suggested sites are being reviewed but it will probably return to Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center and include the afternoon guest speaker at the same location.

c. Extended his thanks to all who participated in RAD 2007.

NOTE: COL Rice remarked on the letters and certificates presented to participating persons and organizations.

d. Articles for the website newsletter are due by 21 December 2007.

5. OLD BUSINESS: None.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Surviving Spouse Symposium. Questions relative to its frequency, target audience and possible name change were posed.

a. Frequency. Should the symposium be held yearly? Mixed response between yearly and every other year was received. Because it is held on a military installation, it attracts mostly military retirees.

b. Audience. SGM McCall indicated that many of today's warriors are being medically retired and are beneficiaries of the same survivor benefits afforded length of service retirees. Many of the warriors suffer from terminal injuries/illnesses and their family members or care-givers are in need of the same type of information and support made available at the Council's symposium. LTC Hammond added that much of the information provided the wounded warrior family members are lost due to their emotional state. Providing symposiums that are made available to them would be beneficial.

c. Name change. COL Rice suggested that we consider a name change for the event that would reflect its perceived purpose and would be more inclusive. Several titles were discussed, one being a "Survivors Workshop". COL Rice asked SGM McCall if he would assemble a committee to address this issue. (COL Burtnick, LTC Hammond, SFC Caswell and SSG Hollman agreed to work with SGM McCall and this committee).

NOTE: SGM McCall stated that he would bring this issue before the Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs Commission that he chairs, to determine if they would partner with or sponsor same.

7. APG UPDATE: CSM Decker reported on their RAD event that featured BG James Adkins, USA Ret., Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, as the guest speaker. The event was successful. Added comments were:

a. A co-chairman to replace COL Charles Shadle, USA Ret, is being sought. (He recently passed away).

b. The passing of SGM Samuel Gilliam, USA Ret, former Retirement Services Officer for APG. (SGM McCall reported that he had attended the services as well as CW2 Ricky Godbolt, council member).

8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LTC Kesselring reported that he had been in contact with the retiree councils at both Carlisle Barracks and Fort Detrick and was planning to attend their meetings if possible.

9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: No report was rendered, representative was not available. (Mrs. Morse stated that a meeting was scheduled for 10 December 2007, at 3:30 p.m. and would try to attend.)

9. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: No report.

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk and Mrs. Eckford had nothing to add to Ms Sannino's report. SGM McCall did

inquire as to the status of installing "cart corrals" and was informed that several were in place. More are needed to address safety concerns.

NOTE: COL Rice left to attend ceremony.

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

a. The support provided by council members during our RAD event that included manning the registration table, operating the RAD cabs (even in the rain) and serving as guides. All were thanked for their participation to include SSG Hollman and Mrs. Eckford, who donated door prizes.

b. Provided a handout of a news article and discussed same that pertained to how a disability evaluation can have life-altering effects if not pursued correctly. All were asked to share this information with their organizations and veteran service officers so as to be able to provide counsel to those in need.

c. Distributed a news article that provided information relative to how an aging parent of a military retiree or active duty could qualify for medical service in a military treatment facility if certain parameters were met.

d. Discussed the formation of a new veteran service organization, 'Veterans of Modern Warfare', opened only to veterans that have served since 2 August 1990. It is perceived that current veteran service organizations are not fully meeting the needs of the modern warrior and their family.

e. Invited COL Burtnick, fellow commissioner with the Maryland Veterans Commission, to report on a recent meeting where information as shared that included new initiatives being pursuant to treat traumatic brain injury patients at Bethesda Naval Hospital. This included being aware of the not so obvious symptoms that would indicate that a veteran or wounded warrior suffered from same. Information is available on the web.

f. Council meeting schedule:

Saturday, 8 March - Initiate planning for the 2008 RAD and review the suggestions received for improving the event; address the need for more council members to participate in installation/organizational events.

Saturday, 7 June 2008 - Review plans for RAD 2008; entertain suggestions for items to be submitted to the Army Chief of Staff Council meeting.

Saturday, 27 September 2008 - Finalize plans for the RAD 2008, receive donated door prizes from council members; review issues for the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council.

Saturday, 6 December 2008 - Review RAD 2008 event and comments received.

Saturday, 7 March 2009 - Open.

NOTE: CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO MAKING THE 7 JUNE 2008 MEETING SPECIAL BREAKFAST MEETING.

13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

a. Mr. Ashley responded to a question asked relative to council minutes being on the council's web site. They are located on the Fort Meade Retirement Services homepage.

b. Mrs. Eckford questioned if Fort Meade plans to establish housing for military retirees similar to that being planned at Fort Howard. (Not in the foreseeable future. Current policy allows military retirees and DoD civilians to reside in on-post unoccupied housing on a month-to-month lease. As troops arrive (as with BRAC) the housing will be given to active duty troops and their families.)

c. MSG Barron discussed her concern relative to social security pay and military pay and if one affects the other. She is to talk with the RSO.

d. MAJ Heath wanted to know if other RSOs have websites? (Yes.)

e. SGM McCall collected from the council those items to be donated to the Army Community Service (gifts, cookies, clothes, etc.) that were presented to MSG Barron for delivery.

NOTE: All were thanked for their continuing support and service to the council's mission.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. on a motion made by LTC Kesselring, seconded by MSG Barron and approved by the body. All were reminded of the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, 9 a.m., 8 March 2008, at building 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