

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one hundred and eighth (108) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at Fort Meade Golf Course Club House at 8:25 a.m., 7 June 2008 as a fare-well breakfast meeting honoring COL and Mrs. Kenneth O. McCreedy, as they retire from the military. 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
COL Edward W. Uemura, USA Ret
MAJ Edward J. Calhoon, USA Ret
MAJ William S. Heath, USA Ret
CW3 Gregory Crites, USN Ret (New member)
CSM Sandra Matlock-Williams, USA Ret
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret
1SG Richard Gillman, USA Ret
MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret
SFC Robert Caswell, USA Ret
SFC Carlo Deporto, USA Ret
SSG Walter B. Hollman, Sr., USA Ret
Mrs. Cecille Morse
Mrs. Catherine Eckford

Also in attendance:

Stephen Ashley, Retirement Services Officer
Leo Bitner, AAFES
Charles Ham, Installation AG
Vincent James, AAFES
Frank Macias, Fort Meade Commissary
Mary Williams, Fort Meade Commissary (New commissary officer)

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. Breakfast was then served.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:** COL Rice conducted the following:

a. Presented council members with Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation issued by COL McCreedy at an earlier function. COL McCreedy assisted in the distribution.

b. Called for special remarks for the McCreedy's.

Mr. Bitner and Mr. James who also presented gifts to them.

Mrs. Morse who presented a gift to Mrs. McCreedy from the Council.

COL Rice who presented a gift to COL McCreedy from the Council.

c. Called for the acceptance of the minutes of 8 March 2008. Motion made by COL Uemura, seconded by SSG Hollman and accepted by the body.

d. Asked for comments from COL McCreedy who remarked on his tenure at Fort Meade, many of the accomplishments that the community recorded, the assistance provided by the council and the difficulty he is having in saying farewell. COL Rice, on behalf of the council, thanked the Commander for that which he brought to the community, the many improvements that were initiated and the attention given, not only to active duty but to military retirees and their families as well.

e. Asked for comments from AAFES attendees:

*Mr. Bitner discussed the AAFES construction master plan and the changes necessitated by BRAC, the expansion of the "mall" and the forthcoming Subway restaurant.

*Mr. James remarked on the new MasterCard program being offered and the new "car detailing" shop that recently opened and the upcoming Tent Sale 13 - 19 June 2008.

* Questions and Answers:

SGM Gilbert remarked on the problems that the gas station recently experienced. Mr. Bitner stated that it was caused by the systems mixing elements that malfunctioned when old fuel was inadvertently introduced. The problem has been corrected.

SFC DePorto expressed concerns that the gas station no longer has an outside cashier. Mr. Bitner stated that it was not cost effective to have someone man the outside booth and that the designation of an inside cashier to handle those duties from the inside has proven to be more effective. Additionally, the industry has moved away from that trend.

f. Asked for comments from Commissary attendees:

*Ms Williams discussed her background with the military and her last duty station as a Commissary Officer in Germany. She has also developed and submitted a list of needed improvements to the Fort Meade Commissary and send to DECA.

*Mr. Macias commented on the Commissary's scholarship program and awards that were being presented in July 2008 and that there are several local winners. He also spoke of the upcoming Case Lot sale.

***Questions and Answers:**

CSM Matlock-Williams commented on the refusal of a commissary worker to open a case of meat during the stores recent Memorial Day sales event. She described the circumstances. Ms Williams stated that she would look into this concern and provide feedback.

SSG Hollman requested information relative to the scholarship program starting date. Mr Macias stated that it would be November 2008.

Mrs. McCreedy asked as to the possibility of adding more cashiers at the self-checkout. Mr. Macias stated that staffing was based on volume, but would look into whether or not their schedules need adjusting.

Mr. Ham inquired as to any shoplifting problems that were being experienced and what action is being taken to discipline violators. Discussion followed with many addressing their concern. Mr. Ham stated that regulations support denial of privileges and that we should pursue same. COL McCreedy and the Council agreed. Mr. Ham will follow up on this issue.

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

a. Issuing of ID Cards. A test program will have the ID Card section being open on the second Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through September 2008.

b. The dedication of a renovated Army stove from the 1930's at the Max J. Beilke Human Resource Center is on 12 June 2008.

c. The Retiree Appreciation Day is still on track for 17 October 2008, with the guest speaker making his presentation at the Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center events center. More to follow.

5. OLD BUSINESS: None.

6. NEW BUSINESS: COL Rice reviewed some items from the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Councils report.

7. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mrs. Morse reported that the recent meeting addressed active duty issues. Obtaining appointments more expeditiously is also being addressed.

8. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk addressed the issue of the Commissary not being able to distribute items at the Retiree Appreciation Day activity. Ms Williams stated that she would personally look into the concern.

9. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs. Morse had nothing to report.

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

a. Thanked COL McCreedy for his support to military retirees and their family members and that many were glad to hear that he would be remaining in the area.

b. Informed the Council of the new Survivors Benefit Plan Paid-up Program for members that had reached the age of 70 and had paid into the program for 360 consecutive months. They will remain in the program, but will no longer have to contribute to it.

c. Door prizes for RAD. Those having gifts to donate should bring them to our next Council meeting.

d. Council meeting schedule:

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

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

Saturday, 7 March 2009 - Open.

13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION: None.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. with a reminder that the next meeting would be held at bldg 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade at 9 a.m., 27 September 2008.

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

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