

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE RETIREE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one hundred and twelfth (112) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at building 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:10 A.M., 6 June 2009, in accordance with AR 600-8-7.

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 Uemura, USA Ret

MAJ William Heath, USA Ret

CW3 Gregory Crites, USN Ret

SGM J. Paul Funk, USAR Ret

SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret

MSG Barbra Barron, USAR Ret

1SG Eugene Johnson, USAR Ret

SFC Robert Caswell, USA Ret

SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret

MSGT Charles Plummer, USAF Ret

SSG Walter B. Hollman, Sr., 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 Pledge of Allegiance led by COL Rice.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 March 2009; with the council who accepted the minutes unanimously (one word was misspelled and corrected). The Volunteer's Certificates of Appreciation issued

by COL Daniel Thomas, Installation Commander, to Retiree Council members, were presented to those in attendance. COL Rice then introduced the visitors (SSGT & Mrs. William Russell, USAF Retired and SGT Peggy Jacobs, USA Ret) and the following guest:

a. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Director of Human Resources, addressed the following:

- (1) Opening of the new ID card station that is fully operational and working well.
- (2) Search for a replacement for COL Rice as Chair continues. Those contacted have failed to respond. (COL Rice stated that he will continue to serve until a replacement is found.)
- (3) Status on the renovations of building 2234 that will include the installation of an elevator.
- (4) Questions and Answers:

SGM Gilbert - remarked on the bushes that block the view of traffic at the intersection of Taylor Ave. and Mapes Road. (It will be addressed.)

b. Mr. Jose E. Mendez (General Manager) and Mr. Vincent James (Manager), Fort Meade Exchange System, shared the following:

- (1) Mr. Mendez stated that he has been on board for 6 months coming from the Fort Drum systems, been with AAFES for 28 years and has served "down range".
 - (a) He thanked the "retired military community" for their continued/outstanding support of the stores.
 - (b) Congressional approval has been given to construct a mall at Fort Meade and is scheduled to start in 2012.
 - (c) A new Shoppette with new gas pumps is scheduled to be built in the near future.
 - (d) The car wash is scheduled to open for business in late July 2009 and is located near the current Shoppette.

NOTE: Gas pricing on post was once again questioned and the regulation addressing same was reviewed.

(2) Mr. James also issued kudos for the support provided the PX.

(a) Issued gift bags to all in attendance.

- (b) Robin Hood food stand now has specials on some of their sandwiches.
 - (c) AAFES.com has partnered with vendors to bring offer specials and reduced pricing on select products.
 - (d) The Power Zone area is resetting at the store and will feature a greater array of merchandise.
 - (e) Addressed a question relative to the parking of oversized vehicles at the PX area which blocks the view of some of the traffic lanes (these are the vehicles marked for sale). It will be brought to the attention of the on-post activity that sponsors the BOSS program to determine if they can relocate those oversized vehicles.
- b. Mr. Frank Macias, Acting manager Fort Meade Commissary, thanked the military retired community for all of their support which has helped make the store one of the most successful in DECA.

(1) The store awarded six (6) scholarships this year.

(2) Major store expansion is scheduled to start in January 2010. (COL Rice mentioned that the new PX is planned to be constructed so as to be connected to the commissary.)

(3) A new store director is scheduled for the commissary. (Ms. Williams has been transferred to another commissary.)

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

a. Retiree Appreciation Day 2009 is scheduled for 9 October to be held at the Fort Meade Pavilion. Additionally:

(1) Two (2) buses will be used to transport attendees to the dining facility for lunch;

(2) Because there will be two (2) entrances to the Pavilion, volunteers will be needed to man both.

(3) Request for tables to distribute information continues to be received. (SSG Hollman addressed the feasibility of manning a Voter Registration booth. The issue was taken under advisement and will be reviewed.)

b. The next newsletter will be published in July 2009 and the deadline for submission of articles is today.

5. Old Business:

Survivors Symposium - COL Rice reported that the Symposium was cancelled for lack of participation and discussed the reasons for same. The next one is planned for Saturday, 19 June 2010.

6. New Business: None.

7. APG Update: Representative not present.

8. Western Maryland Update: Representative not present.

9. Kimbrough Advisory Council: COL Uemura had nothing to report stating that their next meeting is scheduled for 18 June 2009.

a. COL Rice remarked on the concerns that their staff has as a result of the Wounded Warrior Program at KACC. He also stated that the effort to open a VA clinic at Fort Meade is moving forward.

b. SGM McCall stated that a revision of policies at KACC has affected some of its service and that it would be beneficial to users to become aware of same.

c. Mrs. Morse remarked that she has been appointed to the Doctor's Advisory Council which will address KACC users concerns, etc. She announced her telephone number so that members can call her if need be.

10. Fort Meade Commissary Council: Neither SGM Funk nor Mrs. Eckford had anything more to report.

11. Army Family Advisory Board: Mrs. Morse had nothing to report.

12. Co-Chairman's Remarks: SGM McCall remarked on the following:

a. A letter that he received from Senator Barbara Mikulski in which she addressed the growing concern that "combat stress" is having on the military. She underscores the need for more and better mental health treatment for our service members and has co-sponsored a bill (The Honor Act of 2009, S.772) that provides for the training of former military, who saw combat during the War on Terrorism, as mental health counselors and station them with units overseas so they can help units better deal with the stresses of combat

b. The Anne Arundel County Veterans Muster is being sponsored by the Glen Burnie VFW on 20 June 2009. Families are welcomed.

c. There is a need by military retirees and their family members to utilize the Walter Reed shuttle bus more frequently. This benefit is very important to many in our community and if is underused, its future may be in danger.

d. Council Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, 12 September 2009 - Finalize RAD plans and determines how the Council will be used and, review suggestions for the Army Chief of Staffs Councils annual meeting.

Saturday, 5 December 2009 - Review RAD 2009 program and discuss entries submitted for the Army Chief of Staffs Councils annual meeting.

Saturday, 6 March 2010 - To be announced.

Saturday, 5 June 2010 - To be announced.

13. Good of the Organization:

a. COL Rice remarked on the forthcoming appearances at Fort Meade of the Golden Knights, the Army Marksmanship unit and a K-9 unit.

b. The PX presented additional gifts.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:47AM and a reminder was issued relative to the next meeting which will held in Building 2234 at 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade, 9 A.M., 12 September 2009.

BERT L. RICE

KENNETH L. MCCALL, SR.

COL, USA Rets

SGM, USA Rets

Chairman, Fort Meade

Co-Chairman, Fort Meade

Retiree Council

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