

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE RETIREE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one-hundred and sixteenth (116) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held in building 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:02 AM, 5 June 2010 and in accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted.

a. The following members were present:

MG Roderick Isler, USA Ret (Chairman)

SGM Kenneth L. McCall, Sr., USA Ret (Co-Chairman)

COL Erwin A. Burtnick, USAR Ret

COL Bert L. Rice, USA Ret

COL Edward H. Uemura, USA Ret

CW3 Gregory P. Crites, USN Ret

CSM Sandra Matlock-Williams, USA Ret

SGM J. Paul Funk, USAR Ret

MSG Barbara Barron, USAR Ret

1SG John E. (Eugene) Johnson, USAR Ret

SFC Robert Caswell, USA Ret

MSGT Charles E. 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 MG Isler. The invocation was given by SGM McCall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by MG Isler.

3. Chairman's Remarks. MG Isler reviewed the minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 March 2010, with the Council who unanimously accepted them. MG Isler then introduced the following guest:

a. Mr Walter Young, Commissary Department Manager, expressed the regrets of the Store Manager who was on TDY and wanted all to know that the support the store receives from the retired military community is greatly appreciated and has added to the stores successes. Mr Young also shared the following:

(1) The Commissary is in the midst of preparing their budget which calls for many improvements that should be welcomed by its customers.

(2) Commissary Upgrades - no new information available other than bids for some are due by June 2010.

(3) Sales - Are down slightly reflecting the current economic down swing that is being experienced by all.

(4) Questions, Answers and Comments:

*MSG Barron - A recent case lot sale held at the Pavilion halted early possibly effecting sales (The facility had to be returned to MWR on the following day and all items had to be removed) and some cash registers were inoperative (Mr Young will investigate same).

*Mrs Morse - There have been instances of products being sold past there used by date (Mr Young will investigate same and also stated that products are routinely check and removed when the date expires and requested that

when such are found, it be brought to attention of the floor manager).

*COL Rice - Asked for the status Reset (No date has been set, but it is included in the scheduled renovations).

*MSGT Plummer - Expressed appreciation for acquiring the small shopping carts (based on observations at civilian stores and the usage of same, several had been ordered to evaluate their acceptance at Fort Meade and when they arrived [more than expected], they proved to be a hit) and had purchased some Eggland eggs that were broken (when this occurs, return them immediately for replacement).

Mr Young was thanked for his report.

b. Mr John Mendez, AFFES General Manager and Ms Deborah Johnson, AAFES Acting Store Manager, expressed their appreciation for the great support the military retired community gives to the store system and that they are an integral part of all of their achievements.

(1) Ms Johnson addressed the remodeling that will occur during July and August 2010 that will affect the entire store, but not hinder its operation and spoke of the success the Game Stop (electronic games) is experiencing.

(2) Mr Mendez reported that he will be retiring in July 2010 and remarked on the following:

(a) Status of parking lot repairs - they have been completed.

(b) Construction of a new shoppette - is scheduled to start in August 2010 and is to be located near the Mapes Road gate.

(c) Two (2) more vendors are being planned for the food court.

(d) Expired products - if found on the shelves, etc., bring to the immediate attention of the appropriate store manager.

(3) Questions, Answers and Comments for Mr Mendez:

*COL Burtnick - inquired as to the status of a new building (extensive renovations have been requested and submitted for the 2013 time frame).

*SGM Funk - inquired as to the constant state disrepair of the Shoppettes Air Pump (users continue to break it as soon as it is repaired and another type is being considered).

*COL Rice - requested feedback relative to the new car wash (it is doing great business and is evaluating the possibility of adding credit card payment for same). NOTE: Evaluating payment by credit card for the Post Theatre also.

Gift bags were distributed to all in attendance. Mr Mendez and Ms Johnson were thanked for their briefing and Mr Mendez was wished a happy retirement.

c. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Director of Human Resources, remarked on the following:

(1) The buildings elevator installation is near completion and should be operational within the week.

(2) A farewell luncheon is planned for Steve Ashley, at Club Meade on Thursday, 10 June 2010 and all were invited to participate.

d. Anthony Barber (SFC, USA Ret), Deputy Director, Human Resources - no comments.

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

a. His plans for retiring are still in effect, that his replacement, Anna M. Taylor, Fort Myers assistant RSO and Transition Officer, has been named and expected to be on board by mid-June 2010.

b. The newsletter is in and publication should soon be made.

c. The RAD is still planned for 1 October 2010 and contacts for supporting same have been made. (MG Isler asked SGM McCall to followup on same and COL Burtnick and SFC Caswell were to assist.)

d. Remarked that he is looking forward to his retirement and that Ms Johnson and Mr Eisenhart, will be able to keep the office operational until the arrival of the new RSO. (SGM McCall remarked that Ms Johnson has provided outstanding support to the RSO and was able to provide continuity of operation in the absence of Mr Ashley.)

5. Old Business:

a. Retiree Symposium Update - Mrs Morse reported that it was still on schedule for 19 June 2010 and that volunteers from the Council included COL Uemura, SFC Caswell and SGM McCall. Additionally, the VA representative will not be attending due to administrative problems. (COL Burtnick is to contact their office to obtain a replacement.) COL Rice requested the names of the speakers and the times that they are scheduled to make their presentations. (Both he, Mrs Morse and SGM McCall will address same at the conclusion of the meeting. This was accomplished.)

b. Retiree Appreciation Day - As reported earlier, all contacts have been made and information will be left for the new RSO. COL Burtnick suggested that an on-post Vehicle Registration Booth be setup and COL Rice is to check with the Director of Emergency Services to see if same is possible.

6. New Business - MSGT Plummer remarked on the inadequate response time for Emergency Responders to react to an on-post injury (broken leg) and a male suffering a heart attack (fatal). Extensive discussion surrounded the remarks and COL Cullen was asked to followup on same.

7. APG Update. None. No representatives available.

8. Western Maryland Update. None. Representative not available.

9. Kimbrough Advisory Council - COL Uemura reported on the following:

a. The arrival of the new clinic commander, COL _____, who has identified several concerns that he will address immediately.

b. Building renovations are underway with more to come.

c. The use of the Pharmacy Cards to obtain prescription and the reason for same. (Some attendees were adamantly opposed to its usage.)

10. Fort Meade Commissary Council - SGM Funk addressed the impact the economical situation is having on sales and outstanding job Mr Young is doing. He is always busy and accessible. (All agreed.) 11. Co-Chairman's Remarks. SGM McCall addressed the following:

a. Notes from his attendance at the Fort Meade Community Council meeting conducted by the Installation Commander COL Daniel Thomas and his staff on 27 May 2010, and shared those items of interest that pertained to the Retiree Council:

- (1) The Retiree Council did not receive an invitation to attend the Installations Volunteer Banquet held in April. (A new Volunteer Coordinator had been hired and failure to issue an invite may have been an oversight that will be corrected.)
- (2) Smoking at the entrances and exits to the Commissary, PX, etc., is a problem especially when there are signs posted prohibiting same within 50 feet of the buildings. (Enforcement of the ban is to exercised using building managers and the like.)
- (3) Status of the VA Clinic scheduled for opening at Fort Meade. (This has been delayed due to a request to redesign same.)
- (4) The KACC Diabetes Educator has been deployed and there is no one to conduct this important training. (No one was aware of the vacancy, but the need for a replacement has been realized and action will be taken to fill the position.)
- (5) The PX is scheduled for extensive renovation and with the scheduled influx of troops to the installation due to BRAC, would the installation consider including a Pharmacy placement at the PX to accommodate the pending medical needs? (To be evaluated.)
- (6) The concern relative to having to relinquish your military ID Card to the Post Librarian in order to use a computer there has been resolved and is no longer a requirement.
- (7) The need to make Credit Union members aware of the recent regulation changes that will affect them is paramount. (It is up to individual units to schedule educational sessions with the Credit Union for same.)
- (8) Extension of gate hours at the Mapes Road/Route 32 to accommodate shoppers leaving the Commissary after its 9 PM closing time is cost prohibitive.
- (9) AER exceeded their goal for contributions.
- (10) Expansion of the Bowling Center is planned.
- (11) ID Card renewal, when sponsor is not available, can be accomplished through the use of a Power of Attorney being provided to the person in need. Also, installation Blood Drives benefit military retirees and their eligible Family Members.
- (12) Placing personal property items for sale on Facebook is discouraged due to thefts associated with same.
- (13) KACC is now conducting school and sports physicals. Also, the use of the Mail Order Pharmacy is being encouraged.
- (14) COL Thomas discussed a proposed Community Relations Center being constructed to be used for Emergency Operations.
- (15) Attendees were reminded of the Retiree Benefits Symposium being sponsored by the Fort Meade Retiree Council, at Club Meade, on 19 June 2010, at 9 AM.

b. Made distribution and explained the following handouts:

- (1) A newsletter from Senator Barbara A. Mikulski explaining the bill introduced to extend Health Insurance Coverage for Children of Military Families that was overlooked in this bill that was recently passed.
- (2) A newsletter from Senator Mikulski announcing that she and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin have joined the Supreme Court brief to protect funerals of Fallen Soldiers.

c. Made mention of the availability of the Navy's Solomon Island Recreation Facility in St. Mary's County located off of Route 4 near the Patuxent Naval Air Station.

d. Questions, Answers and Comments:

*MSGT Plummer - With the construction of new facilities on post, how will parking be accommodated? (COL Rice, EUL officer, stated that space is provided based on 60% of each buildings proposed occupancy.)

e. SFC Larry Barber, USA Ret, was introduced as a perspective member of the Council and gave a brief introduction as to his service, etc.

f. Council Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, 11 September 2010 - Finalize plans for the 1 October 2010 RAD and address possible issues to be submitted to the Army Chief of Staff(COS) Retiree Council for their next meeting.

Saturday, 4 December 2010 - Review RAD and its After-Action Report. Also, finalize issues to be submitted to the Army COS Retiree Council.

Saturday, 5 March 2011 - To be announced.

12. Good of the Organization:

a. MG Isler thanked the Council for their support and presided over a Farewell ceremony for Mr Ashley which consisted of gift presentations from both the Officer Council and the Enlisted Council, a cake provided by the Commissary was cut and consumed, and farewells were exchanged.

b. The PX presented additional gifts to the Council.

13. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM and a reminder was issued relative to the next meeting that will be held at building 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade, MD, at 9 AM, 11 September 2010.

RODERICK ISLER
MG, USA Ret
Chairman, Fort Meade
Meade
Retiree Council
Council

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