



STILL SERVING



Fort Meade Retirement Services Office
ATTN IMND MEA HRR, 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade, MD 20755-5073
Phone: 301-677-9603
E-mail: mderso@conus.army.mil

Summer 2009

Volume 17, Number 2

STILL ARMY STRONG!

NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

I hope this finds everyone doing well.

It has been quite a year so far and the future is going to be even better. The Retiree Appreciation Day will be held on October 9 at the Fort Meade Pavilion. (More on this in the newsletter). There will also be a Retiree Benefits Symposium on June 10, 2010. The one for this year was cancelled due to minimum participation. The registration form for this event is also enclosed in the newsletter but please don't send it out until next May.

Please feel free to check out our homepage. You will find prior issues of the "Still Serving" newsletter, Fort Meade Retiree Council minutes, and up-to-date information on events happening on Fort Meade. The site is:

www.ftmeade.army.mil/rso-index.html. Please save this in your favorites.

A big thank you to my staff, Cynthia Johnson and Don Eisenhart. Their dedication, support, and hard work have made this office one of the best. Cynthia and Don work the pre-retirement portion of the office. I would also like to thank the Retiree Council for their dedication to the area retirees.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you retirees and your families for your continued service to our country. You have made my job a pleasurable one.

**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
OCTOBER 9, 2009
FORT MEADE PAVILLION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Installation Commanders Remarks----- page 2
FGGM Council Chairman's Notes----- page 2
ID Cards News-----page 3
Handy Phone Numbers-----page 3
Retiree Appreciation Day-----page 4
Retiree Appreciation Day Reservation----page 5
Retiree Benefit Symposium-----page 6

NOTICE

Published by the Retirement Services Office (RSO), Directorate of Human Resources. United States Army Garrison, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland as a Service to Army retirees and their families. Articles appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Installation Commander. Direct inquiries to the Retirement Services Branch, MPD, ATTN: IMND-MEA-HRR, 2234 Huber Road, STE 5073, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5073.

INSTALLATION COMMANDERS MESSAGE COL DANIEL L. THOMAS

I salute the Fort Meade Retiree community! Words cannot express my gratitude for your sacrifices, your contributions or for your dedication. As members of the armed forces, you have stayed the course and continue to contribute to this tight-knit community.

As the installation commander for just over a year, I have watched retirees answer the call as volunteers, as board members, as mentors and as financial contributors to post supported charities.

As we anticipate the 2009 Retiree Appreciation Day that will be held at the Fest Tent Oct. 9, many retirees are literally fulfilling the motto "Still Serving."

Col. (Ret.) Joseph H. Rouse, 90, who came back as a civilian and is the oldest attorney in the Department of the Army, serves his section every day with wit and an astounding depth of understanding of the law. Recently retired former post chaplain Lt. Col. Michael Punke has returned to offer prayer even since starting transition leave in June. He will retire effective 1 October. It is common for retirees here to give back.

Retiree Appreciation Day is our day to give back to you for all you do. Last year the event was held Oct. 17 at the Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. More than 300 participants, the most ever, turned out for the event.

This year Retiree Appreciation Day will be better than before. It is our goal to make you feel comfortable and appreciated. In keeping with the Commander's open door policy I extend to you an invitation to be a part of making it even better by calling or coming to talk to me about what you would like.

A sampling of what retirees can look forward to include: medical screening, questions answered on retiree benefits, and a special lunch at Freedom Inn. However, nothing we can offer could outweigh your value to this community.

Your willingness to share experiences and offer years of wisdom lays solid grounding that we, together, have built a community of excellence upon.

In May Fort Meade placed as a silver winner in the 2008 Army Communities of Excellence program. Although placing is not a goal for us, it does give the command group great satisfaction that we as a post have been recognized as a byproduct of making ourselves a better provider to service members, civilians and to you, our highly esteemed retirees. It is also exciting that in just a couple months we will unite and celebrate past memories of building that level of excellence together. We can not do what we do without your help.

As we continue the mission of providing customers and the community the facilities and infrastructure they require and the quality of life they deserve here on post, you are a priority. On behalf of the Fort Meade community, I thank you for being here. I encourage you to come and be celebrated. It is my personal invitation to you.

NOTES FROM THE FORT MEADE RETIREE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN – COL(USA RET) BERT RICE

It was a very nice spring with lots of rain and now we are well into summer, which usually means hazy, hot and humid weather! So, for safety sake, please use caution when enjoying summer activities – boating, beach activities, swimming, outdoor cooking, traveling, etc. The same holds as you negotiate Fort Meade because there is a lot of construction underway for both Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) agencies that are coming to Fort Meade and the new 902nd MI Group building, Veterans Affairs clinic, and new or renovation of family housing units. **Be careful!**

In my brief comments I will highlight two events that will occur in the next year. **Please retain a copy of this newsletter for both events because you will not receive another printed edition with this information.** However, information will be on the Fort Meade web site at www.ftmeade.army.mil The two events are the **Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activities which we will be held on Friday, 9 October 2009 at the Fort Meade Pavilion** (this is a change from using Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center as it is undergoing changes). And, the **Benefits Symposium will be held on Saturday, 19 June 2010 at Club Meade.** As these events approach, announcements will be printed in the Fort Meade newspaper – "**SOUND OFF!**"

First, the RAD is always well attended because a lot of information is made available by supporting agencies such as Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, the U.S. Army Dental Activity, and many other organizations that have a connection with the retired community. So, please take note of the information elsewhere in this newsletter and respond by not later than the date given to let us know if you will attend and if you wish to eat at the Dining Facility. **Again, the date and location of the RAD is Friday, 9 October at the Fort Meade Pavilion or you might know it as the Fest Tent. The RAD will begin at 0800 hours.** It is located on Llewellyn Avenue just across from the Military Clothing Sales Store. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

The second event is the Benefits Symposium which is planned for Saturday, 19 June 2010 at Club Meade. We have moved this event to a later date than was planned this year because of many other conflicts encountered in May. However, we know from experience that this symposium is well attended as well because it, too, provides critically important information and it affords attendees to ask questions that often time pertains to many others. While this event is nearly a year away, please keep the enclosed information at hand so that you will have it available to respond by the not later than date given which will facilitate final planning to include notifying Club Meade of the number who will be eating the meal. **Again, the date and**

location of the Benefits Symposium is Saturday, 19 June 2010 at Club Meade. The Symposium will commence promptly at 0900 hours so arrive early for sign-in and seating purposes!

The Fort Meade Retiree Council continues to meet quarterly. We discuss retiree issues and activities that are of mutual interest to active duty service members, their families and retirees. It is an exciting time to be involved at Fort Meade because of all that is happening on the installation. Again, I urge you to use caution when driving on the installation because there are heavy pieces of equipment and trucks traveling the streets daily. On occasion there will be road closures and/or work being done that requires flaggers to control traffic. Be patient and considerate of others and especially the workers who are doing their best to complete projects on time.

As some of you know, I submitted my resignation from the Retiree Council; however, I will continue to chair the Council until a replacement is named by the Installation Commander. Serving on the Council has been a pleasure and I will continue to do whatever I can to help it succeed. Your assistance is needed regarding responding to events as they occur. That certainly helps the Council when finalizing plans.

Thanks for your service to our Nation as well as your on-going service to make this country the best place to live in the World!

God Bless each and every one of you and may God continue to Bless America!

ID CARD NEWS

As the RSO, I have listened to many complaints about the waiting time to obtain a new ID Card.

It can be quite a wait. With individuals obtaining CAC cards (this alone can take up to 15-20 minutes per person) and all else hinging on computers, it can be up to a 4 hour wait at times. Please do not blame the person sitting at the desk (it is easy to shoot the messenger). We are in the great computer age. A couple of tips that might alleviate headaches and frustration are:

1. Come early in the morning. Their hours are from 730 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (They are closed the first Thursday morning of the month).
2. Don't wait until the day before a holiday or the day before school begins.
3. Call ahead and check the wait time. You may do this by calling (301)677-3342.
4. Make an appointment. That's right! You can now make appointments by going to the following web address: <https://es.cac.navy.mil/signup.pl>. Select Fort Meade MD location. I think you will be pleased.
5. Make sure you have (two) forms of current identification. Drivers license (birth certificate, social

security card, passport, etc.). The ID Card section cannot accept any expired cards as identification. This is not their rule but is in the DoD regulation.

HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

FORT MEADE

POST LOCATOR	(301) 677-6261
ACS/AER	(301) 677-5590
CAMP MEADE RV PARK	(301) 677-6196
CASUALTY REPORTING	(301) 677-2902
COMMISSARY	(301) 677-7463
GUEST HOUSE	(301) 677-5660
	(410) 672-1929
HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISOR	(301) 677-8982
ID CARDS	(301) 677-3342
ITT (TOURS AND TRAVEL)	(301) 677-7354
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(301) 677-9536
KIMBROUGH MED CLINIC	(301) 677-8392
POST EXCHANGE	(301) 677-7695
RSO	(301) 677-9603
VISITORS CONTROL CTR	(301) 677-1064

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

POST LOCATOR	(410) 278-5201
ACS	(410) 278-7572
CASUALTY REPORTING	(410) 306-2345
COMMISSARY	(410) 278-3101
ID CARDS	(410) 306-2389
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(410) 278-1583
MEDICAL CLINIC	(410) 278-1719
POST EXCHANGE	(410) 272-6829
LOCAL RSO	(410) 306-2320

FORT DETRICK

ACS	(301) 619-2197
CASUALTY REPORTING	(301) 619-3286
COMMISSARY	(301) 619-2616
ID CARDS	(301) 619-6635
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	(301) 619-2643
MEDICAL CLINIC	(301) 619-7175

R.A.D.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY – 9 October 2009

8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Information Booths
Medical Screenings
Flu Shots?

12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at Freedom Inn Dining Facility
(A shuttle will be provided starting at 11:45)
Cost is \$4.25-\$4.50, **please have monies with you.**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker – CSM (USA Ret) Leroy Bussells,
Legislative Advisor, Association of
The US Army.

Questions and Answers

Door Prize Drawings

***Both morning and afternoon events will take
Place at the Fort Meade Pavilion .***

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS DIRECTIONS / GATES

From North – Travel south on Rt 295 to the Jessup/Odenton exit (Rte 175). Exit east on Rte 175 towards Odenton. Turn right onto Reece Road (3rd light).

From West – Travel east on Rte 175, turn right on Reece Road.

From the East - Travel Rte 175. Either enter at the gate on Llewellyn Road (this will not permit you on to the main post) or the gates at Reece or Mapes Road.

From South – Travel North on Rte 295 (B/W Parkway) and then east on Rte 198. Take the circles at Rte 32 and come through Mapes Road entrance or drive North on 95 then east on Rte 32 to Mapes Road entrance.

DIRECTIONS TO THE FORT MEADE PAVILION

Coming from Rte 175 west or north enter on Reece Road, turn left on Ernie Pyle Road. Take a left at the 2nd major intersection (Llewellyn) The pavilion is located on the left.

Coming through the Rte 198 entrance follow Mapes to Ernie Pyle Road. Turn right. Directions are the same as above.

For those coming from Rte 175 that do not wish to come all the way on post, the entrance gate at Llewellyn Ave will be open to the Pavilion parking lot only.

Be prepared for delays.

COST FOR LUNCH AT FREEDOM INN IS \$4.25 - \$4.50. CASH ONLY IS ACCEPTED. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR LUNCH.

Please fill out the form on the following page and return it as soon as possible.

There will be breakfast refreshments but remember, some medical screenings might want you to come in fasting

SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING

AAFES
COMMISSARY
CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME
DELTA DENTAL
AA COUNTY DEPT OF AGING & DISABILITIES
DAV
JOHNS HOPKINS US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN
MOAA
MOWW
VFW
AUSA
LEGAL ASSISTANCE

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY RESERVATION FORM

Mail to: Retirement Services Office
ATTN: IMND-MEA-HRR
2234 Huber Road, STE 5073
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-5073

PLEASE RESPOND NLT 25 SEPTEMBER 2009.

_____ Number planning to attend.

_____ 9 October -- Lunch at Freedom Inn Dining Facility (cost \$4.25 - \$4.50 per person, cash only, please bring with you - **do not send in**) A shuttle bus will provide transportation from Pavilion to Dining facility.

_____ 9 October – Medical Screening*
* Those individuals belonging to another medical plan other than TRICARE may not be able to have some medical screenings done.

_____ 9 October – ID Card/s (Replacement) (See ID Card article)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

RETIREE BENEFITS SYMPOSIUM

The Fort Meade Retiree Council invites you to attend a Retiree Benefits Symposium at Club Meade on Friday, June 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Presentations will include Survivor Benefits, Social Security, Veterans Administration, Legal Assistance, and Health care.

The symposium will begin with registration from 8:30 a.m. until 8:55 a.m. A luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. All activities will be held at Club Meade off Mapes Road.

If you wish to attend, please return the pre-registration form below with a check for \$13.00. The check includes the cost of the luncheon and may be made out to 'RETIREE INFORMATION ACTIVITY FUND'. Reservations must be mailed no earlier than May 1, 2010 and received at this office NLT June 4, 2010.

We are pleased to be able to demonstrate, through this event, that you are a valued asset to the total military community. We hope this event will provide an opportunity to make new friends and renew acquaintances as well as being kept up to date. Please call the Retirement Services Office at (301) 677-9603 if you have any questions.

RETIREE BENEFITS SYMPOSIUM June 19, 2010, Club Meade

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

ATTENDING _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

Make check payable to: **RETIREE INFORMATION ACTIVITY FUND**

Return registration Form and check to: **Retirement Services Office
ATTN: IMND-MEA-HRR
2234 Huber Road Ste 5073
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5073**

SUSPENSE DATE: June 4, 2010