

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 9 April 2009 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 12:00 hours at Club Hood, Fort Hood Texas.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

LTG (Ret) Palmer, Chairman	CSM (Ret) Minosky, Co-Chairman
MG (Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member	COL (Ret) Somera, Member
COL (Ret) Portmann, Member	COL (Ret) Oliver Jr., Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Gauer, Member	LTC (Ret) Woodward, Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Member	CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Member
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member	SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Member

b. Members Absent:

CSM (Ret) Kitterman, Member	1SG (Ret) Fisher, Member
MSG (Ret) Wood, Member	SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member
Mrs. Greathouse, (Widow) Member	

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed the council members to the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced our guest MAJ Craig Fisher, Chief, Managed Care Division, CRDAMC.

4. The topics of discussion for this meeting are listed below.

- MAJ Craig Fisher spoke to the council reference the new increase in numbers for Retired Soldiers and their Family members to be seen at CRDAMC medical clinic. He stated that some factors that facilitated that change (up to 105,000 total) were an increase in providers, a new clinic at W. Fort Hood, along with the rearrangement of assignment of Active Duty Soldiers in clinics. Only clinic left with capacity for Retired Soldiers/Family members is at W. Fort Hood. Unfortunately this may be out side the 20 mile limit for some members. He stated that CRDAMC will wait to see what happens after PCS time this summer to see how it settles out and if they will be allowed to take more enrollments or not. Also, he said that as part of the stimulus package, Fort Hood has been selected for the construction of a new hospital to be constructed by FY13. It has not been decided what will be done with the current hospital perhaps converted to admin space.
- MAJ Fisher took questions from the council members and there was further discussion
 - During the discussion, it was brought up that only TRICARE Prime eligible can come on post. Also, it is the concern of Retired Soldiers/Family members that if they come on post, may have to move back off post if there was a draw down. MAJ Fisher said that it could happen, but it is not seen as an issue. LTG(Ret) Palmer said he had attended a briefing on the subject and that it is not for everyone. Those over 65 cannot come on post. So if someone is 63 or 64, they may not want to change to on post only to have to go off post in a year or two because they would then be Tricare for Life. Also, those who have pre-existing conditions or need specialty care may not want to move. It is definitely a good option for newly Retired Soldiers/Family members.

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- Lines of communication were discussed. CRDAMC is looking at good ways to get information out. LTG(Ret) Palmer brought up that communication both ways (up the command chain and info down to the Retired Soldiers/Family members and other groups). It was also brought up if there was enough money in budget for an answer center to determine if personnel wanted to stay on post or move off. MEDCOM Surveys have had a low return rate. The ICE system is being utilized to submit feedback. MAJ Fisher said that COL Vanderlaan is looking at different ways to gather information. It was brought up that BAMC only requests last name and last 4 when calling for an appointment. CRDAMC requires last name and full social. MAJ Fisher said that he would go back and ask if name and last 4 are enough when calling for an appointment.
- The drive-thru pharmacy was brought up. MAJ Fisher said that it has been approved but did not know of the start date.
- LTG(Ret) Palmer thanked MAJ Fisher for taking the time to give the council a CRDAMC update on enrollment and other topics.
- LTG (Ret) Palmer presented the Retiree Council Constitution, Bylaws, and Charter for a vote to be adopted. After minimal discussion, the council voted to adopt the constitution, bylaws, and charter with corrected signature blocks.
- Second order of business: Selection of the Distinguished Retiree for 2009 Retiree Appreciation. The council discussed selection of the Distinguished Retiree. Only one nominee, SFC(Ret) Ron Taylor, had been suggested and the council did not have any other nominees for consideration. The council voted to select SFC(Ret) Ron Taylor as the 2009 Distinguished Retiree. LTG(Ret) Palmer asked COL(Ret) Gauer who nominated SFC(Ret) Taylor, to please notify him of his selection.
- An additional related topic was discussed by the Retiree Council. Historically, the Retirement Ceremony for Retiree Appreciation Day has been held outdoors at the Corps Headquarters. Currently, all ceremonies are held at Club Hood. The council discussed if it should be requested to hold the Retiree Appreciation Day as it has previously been done. After discussion of pros and cons of both locations, the council voted not to request that the event be held outdoors.
- The last order of business before committee updates was to discuss the replacement of Mrs. Shirley Greathouse (widow representative) on the Health Advisory Council. Because of health reasons, Mrs. Greathouse asked to step down from the Health Advisory Council. After discussion, SGM(Ret) Lopez said that he would like to serve on the committee. It was approved for his selection to serve on the committee.
- Council Committee Updates.
 - CSA Council Update. CSA Council to be held 18-24 April 2009. CSA Retiree Council is provided issues and DA response. Council discusses issues and makes recommendations to CSA. There are 30 issues to report this year. CSM(Ret) Minosky will back brief at next meeting the results of the CSA Council meeting.

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- Healthcare Advisory Council (HAC) update. COL(Ret) Portmann stated the last HAC minutes were provided in the information packets. He stated there is a new emphasis on the Healthcare Advisory Council and the meetings were back to being held monthly. He stated that the HAC is a good opportunity to provide retiree feedback. LTG(Ret) Palmer attended the last meeting. He stated it was a very beneficial meeting. SCPO(Ret) Lubasky brought up that at the pharmacy you can drop off request and come back later. Pharmacy will hold for three days and when you come back you can just go to customer service to pick up prescription. COL(Ret) Gauer asked how many Soldiers go to BAMC. COL(Ret) Portmann said he would check and see. (Note: Explanation received from MAJ Fisher that currently BAMC only tracks active duty referrals to Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall because last year it became policy to offer family members/retirees/retiree family member the option to go to San Antonio or get the care locally if available. The organization is referring an average of 20 soldiers per week to BAMC/WHMC. It is about 464 so far this FY, and they are on track for just over a thousand projected out for the year. This is an 80% decrease in referrals to BAMC/WHMC from last year).
- Volunteer Activity Update. LTC(Ret) Woodward state the AFAP Conference would be held 20-22 October 2009. Applications for volunteers to participate can be picked up from Lane Volunteer Center. LTC(Ret) Woodward provide information on upcoming events in April and early May. He said that the Red Cross can still use volunteers to drive the Caremobile. Those interested can contact Red Cross for information.
- AAFES Advisory Council update. COL(Ret) Somera stated that the AAFES Advisory Council will meet semi-annually. Intent of the council is to increase quality of life for the Fort Hood community. The AAFES Council wanted each representative to be the central point of contact for their represented organization. COL(Ret)Somera said he told them he thought retirees would go straight to AAFES as it is a broad population. CSM(Ret) Minosky stated AAFES should do a monthly wrap up of issues and events so it could be put out to the community. Perhaps they could also look at better ways of feedback. COL(Ret) Somera said he would ask about it. LTG(Ret) Palmer said that AAFES is beginning to cater to the retiree population with wider aisles, handicap accessible, etc. He said the gas pumps are being changed out at the shoppettes.
- Commissary Council Update. SCPO(Ret) Lubasky gave an update on upcoming sales at Clear Creek and Warrior Way commissaries. He also stated that Mrs. Baird left Clear Creek Commissary and Mr. Thompson moved to Clear Creek from Warrior Way.
- LTG(Ret) Palmer opened the floor for additional topics of discussion.
 - SGM(Ret) Lopez provided information on a new VA program. VA and local agency for the aging to provide assistance in home versus veterans having to move to assisted living homes. He said family members of veterans also qualify. More information to follow.
 - LTG(Ret) Palmer brought up the topic of the guest speaker for Retiree Appreciation Day, VA Secretary, the Honorable Shinseki. Because there would be late notice if Secretary Shinseki will be able to speak and the possibility of cancellation, LTG(Ret) Palmer stated he would have a back up on standby.
 - It was also brought up to invite LTG Lynch to the next meeting.

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5. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hrs. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 9 July 2009, Location: Club Hood (T). If necessary, the meeting will adjust for LTG Lynch's schedule.


LTG (Ret) DAVE PALMER
Co-Chairman
Chief, Ret Svcs
26 May 09

Approved/Disapproved

MICHAEL J. TARS
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff