MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 15 July 2010 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours at Club Hood, Fort Hood, Texas.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

LTG (Ret) Palmer, Co-Chairman	CSM (Ret) Minosky, Co-Chairman
MG (Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member	COL (Ret) Oliver Jr., Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Gauer, Member	COL (Ret) Portmann, Member
COL (Ret) Somera, Member	LTC (Ret) Woodward, Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Member	CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Member
1SG (Ret) Fisher, Member	SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Member
Msgt (Ret) Wood, Member	SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member
Mrs. Greathouse, (Widow) Member	

b. Members Absent: CSM (Ret) Kitterman, Member; SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member

3. The Co-Chairman, LTG(Ret) Palmer, called the meeting to order and welcomed the council members to the meeting. LTG(Ret) Palmer recognized COL(Ret) Gauer for his new position as an assistant to Senator Troy Frazier. He also recognized COL(Ret) Portmann for his selection to receive the Order of St. Maurice.

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

- CSM(Ret) Minosky back briefed on the CSA Retiree Council meeting. He stated it was a good meeting. The issue of redundancy of issues was discussed. The goal of the council to have issues acted upon or concede that an issue cannot be resolved; i.e., permanent ID cards for spouses at age 65 vs. current 75. It doesn't appear that should be hard to fix but has been an issue for several years. Also, issue of TRICARE rate increases keeps getting pushed back. This delay in implementation of rates being tied to COLA (or some other equitable increase) does not help the issue of the extraordinary cost of TRICARE. Need to go ahead and implement increase in premiums tied to COLA or the delayed result will be enormous hike in premiums when it does happen (and it will). DFAS-CL converted from contractors to civil service employees. In March 2010 no pay dues were down to 3 retirees (all services). Goal is zero. CSM(Ret) Minosky stated this was his last year on the CSA Council. It was an honor for him to serve and a valuable experience for him. He stated that the FH Council has selected two fine candidates (COL(Ret) Gauer and CSM(Ret) King) to be considered for selection by the CSA Council.

- Mrs. Waller gave an update on ID Card issue of BIDIS and other related updates. It was noted by council members that there was a lot of publicity that SSNs were going away on ID Cards. This reduction of SSNs however has been delayed until further notice by DMDC. Council members felt that this delay should have been equally publicized but has not as of date.

- Mrs. Waller also gave an update on Retiree Appreciation Day 2010. All events are on track. Mrs. Waller brought up that most events have grown to max capacity and will continue to look at ways to ensure that quality delivery of services is maintained and/or improved.

Co-Chairman, LTG(Ret) Palmer, put out to the council members to assist in evaluating events/services and present ideas in AAR to improve/sustain scheduled events. Mrs. Waller said that she would provide a breakdown of events for council members to evaluate for the next meeting so all events are covered by members.

- Council Committee Updates.
  - Health Care advisory update. COL(Ret) Portmann briefed that the new Darnall Medical Center is fully funded and is out for bids. Hood Stadium is being torn down to make way for medical center. New stadium is to be built behind the Clear Creek PX.
  - Volunteer Activities. LTC(Ret) Woodward briefed that the Red Cross now has golf carts for the CareMobile at the hospital and volunteer drivers are still needed. He also handed out GKCC letters for donation of door prizes for Retiree Appreciation Day.
  - AAFES Council Update. COL(Ret) Somera briefed that the PX has a new general manager, Mr. Ronald E. Daugherty. He briefed that in the next few years a new super-structure for PX and Commissary is to be built. He stated there are no more rain checks given by the PX for advertised specials. Price Match is honored by the PX (give information on lower price of an item and PX matches). Due to the new general manager of AAFES, LTG(Ret) Palmer asked COL(Ret) Somera to ensure that he is recognized as a representative of the Retiree Council and local retiree community and not only a retiree attending the AAFES council meetings.
  - Commissary Council Update. CW3 (Ret) Hanger briefed that once again the Clear Creek Commissary will sponsor a dinner Friday evening, 29 October for Retiree Appreciation Day. Menu is to be steak, chicken, potato salad, and baked beans. Several council members expressed that they would volunteer to help with the dinner. There will be bingo and prizes given. The Clear Creek Commissary recently had an on-site sale by the Temple Airport. This facilitates National Guard Soldiers to also take advantage of commissary bargains. He also briefed that the commissary will have a case lot sale, 3-4 September.
- LTG (Ret) Palmer opened the floor for additional topics of discussion.
  - LTG(Ret) Palmer stated that four members' term of the Retiree Council were about to expire. Three would be re-newed; however, GEN(Ret) Griffin has agreed to take his position as co-chairman of the council. This transition will occur on or about 19 November 2010.
  - Council members expressed desire to have the new Garrison Commander invited to the next meeting.
  - 1SG(Ret) Fisher brought up that at the recent Wounded Warrior Fishing Derby, members of the Vietnam Veterans Association brought to his attention the difficulty of access for handicapped personnel to access the fishing area. Also, reference RV park, it was brought to his attention that people can only stay 30 days even if there are vacancies. Normal reservation is 4 days but will only be extended to 30 days if spaces are available. RV'ers feel they should be able to stay longer if vacancies are available. LTG(Ret) Palmer asked that a sub-committee of the council be formed to look at Fort Hood Recreation areas. Asked that this item be added to the next meeting's agenda.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hrs. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 5 October 2010, 1200 hrs., location: Club Hood.

25 Aug 10
Chief, Ret Svcs

LTG (Ret) DAVE PALMER
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

RON PERRY
MSE Director/Chief of Staff