

## MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 9 October 2014, meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1130 hours at the Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel, Fort Hood, Texas.

### 2. Membership Attendance:

#### a. Members Present:

GEN (Ret) Thurman, Co- Chairman  
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman  
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member  
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary  
LTC (Ret) Pierce, Member  
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member  
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member  
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member  
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member

COL (Ret) Portmann, Hon Member  
LTC (Ret) Woodward, Hon Member  
CSM (Ret) Minosky, Hon Member

#### b. Members Absent:

COL (Ret) Phelps, Member  
CSM (Ret) Small, Member  
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member  
SFC (Ret) Moore, Member  
Ms. Roupe, Member  
COL (Ret) Somera, Hon Member  
SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Hon Member  
1SG (Ret) Fisher, Hon Member  
COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member  
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Assoc. Member  
Ms. Greathouse, Assoc. Member

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Thurman called the meeting to order at 1145 hours and welcomed everyone present. GEN (Ret) Thurman stated that the Corps Commander is very interested in retirees and the Retiree Council.

GEN (Ret) Thurman recently attended the Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Odierno, Four Star Conference. One of the biggest issues discussed at the conference was how the budget cuts and sequestration will have an adverse effect on the Army. It will potentially have a significant impact on Tri-care especially for retirees. Currently, the Army will have a 2 billion dollar deficit and a 4 billion deficit by FY 20 if nothing changes. Seven out of ten Division HQ are committed. There are 65,000 soldiers deployed worldwide with a wide range of missions. Real threats including ISIS, Ebola, Russia, and Korea continue as we downsize the Army. The active Army is currently at 508,000 will be down to 490,000 by September of 2015. It will be forced to involuntarily separate 5000 Soldiers in 2015. If the Budget Control Act does not get rescinded there will be greater reductions. The cost of a soldier in 2001 was \$45,000 and today it is \$90,000. People programs, modernization, sustainment and rises in the cost of Tri-care will continue to occur. Operational mission requirements continue to increase while manpower decreases.

4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- LTC (Ret) Christ reported that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission would be conducting a Town Hall on Thursday, 16 Oct, 1900-2030, at the Courtyard Marriott in Killeen. The Commission is conducting a review of compensation and retirement systems to make recommendations to modernize such systems. They are required to submit a report to the President and Congress on 1 Feb 2015.
- LTC (Ret) Christ announced that there will be a three year celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War; 2015, 2016, & 2017. On 15 Oct at 1800, there will be a meeting in the Harker Heights City Hall to begin planning to tell the history of the Viet Nam War. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Retiree Appreciation Day activities were discussed in detail. MAJ Cole from Darnall Army Hospital reported that the Thomas Moore Health Clinic would be the location of the RAD Health Fair from nine to noon on Saturday 1 Nov. The flu, Hepatitis C, and shingles vaccines will be available along with several other programs to include self-help pharmacy, self-help classes, sleep activity, nutrition, and women's health. Vaccines will be given on Friday, 31 Oct, at the Copeland building by the RSO.

Ms. Bedgood, RSO, handed out a schedule of events for RAD. She asked that we RSVP for the various events; breakfast and Round-up Dinner. An evaluation form for the RAD activities was included in our packets to use as we attend the various services. CSM (Ret) Bobb will send out a list as to who is to evaluate which services. The Corps Commander will attend the opening ceremony. The guest speaker will be LTC McKinney who is an expert on all pay accounts. He is bringing a team with him who will be set up in the Colonial Room at Club Hood to address retiree pay concerns.

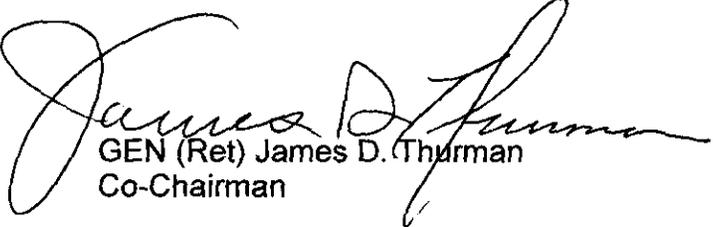
5. Individual Council Member Updates:

- Health Care Advisory Council Update. CSM (Ret) Waller reported that the pharmacy at the new Post Exchange will open at the same time that the facility opens in Mar 2015. The Red Cross needs volunteers to work at the hospital. The hospital secure messaging program should be used for routine items like refills. He said we should use the Express Scripts.
- Benefits Update: CSM (Ret) King said we will be facing some big changes to benefits due to budgetary constraints.
- Installation Update. CSM (Ret) Bobb handed out a packet regarding installation activities which included flu shot information. She asked if the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) had been discussed at the Council. She said there is a conference on 15 & 16 Oct to discuss the issues to be submitted. Right now, there are 24 issues of which 6 are Retired Soldiers issues. If anyone has any issues, they are to contact her.
- AAFES/PX Council Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported she would have an update on the new Post Exchange at the next meeting. DECA and AFFES will be having a meeting on 13 Nov at 9:30.

6. Final comments:

- CSM (Ret) King reported that there will be a Veteran's Day regional parade on 11 Nov, 1100, starting at the intersection of Avenue D and College Street. The theme will be "Honoring All Women Who Served." In addition on 8 Nov, there will be a dinner at the American Legion Post 233 for all veterans.
- GEN (Ret) Thurman recognized Ms. Bedgood for the good job she did on the Retiree Newsletter. He went on to say everyone will see the Soldier for Life program more and more. He thanked all the members for attending.

7. GEN (Ret) Thurman closed the meeting at 1315 hours. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 15 January 2015.



GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman  
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

Christopher M. Doneski  
Colonel, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff