

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 15 January 2015, 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
COL (Ret) Phelps, Member
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary
LTC (Ret) Pierce, Member
CSM (Ret) Small, Member
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member

Ms. Roupe, Member
COL (Ret) Portmann, Hon Member
LTC (Ret) Woodward, Hon Member

b. Members Absent:

CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member
SFC (Ret) Moore, Member
COL (Ret) Somera, Hon Member
CSM (Ret) Minosky, 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 1140 hours and wished everyone present a Happy New Year. GEN (Ret) Thurman stated the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) was very successful. He said Thomas McKenna, the DFAS-Cleveland Director, would like to come back to next year's RAD. For the New Year, GEN (Ret) Thurman wants the Council to identify the big issues of real concern to ensure the Corps leadership knows and is properly represented. He stated that the current fiscal environment will require cuts in the DoD Budget. Therefore, we need to identify key retiree issues for the future.

4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- The primary topic of discussion was the RAD. It began with a discussion of the challenges facing retirees that are directly related to changes in our country's culture and a lack of understanding what it means to serve by those who never did. COL (Ret) Portmann stated that MOAA has been criticized for a lack of

emphasis on retirees. LTC (RET) Christ said Admiral Ryan will be in Dallas at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on February 4th for the Veterans Commission for the State of Texas. The commission will be addressing issues within the state regarding retirees' benefits. He said the Compensation Commission is about to release their report regarding soldier and veteran benefits.

- The council then began their After Action Review of the RAD. SGM (Ret) Lopez stated the meal at the dining facility was terrible. They were given paper plates and plastic ware with which to eat. He could not cut his meat. GEN (Ret) Thurman said the facility was dirty and not well maintained. All agreed this needs to be corrected as there were problems with the meal the year before. CSM (Ret) Small said we need to bring this up next year again before the RAD.
- LTC (Ret) Christ recommended we add an event or two to make the event different. It has been the same for several years. Ms. Roupe recommended a tour of the new hospital. LTC (Ret) MacMillan stated a tour of the new Exchange facility might be good too. COL (Ret) Phelps suggested a re-vamp of the schedule and figure out what retirees really want. GEN (Ret) Thurman asked COL (Ret) Phelps, COL (Ret) Portman, LTC (Ret) Christ, LTC (Ret) MacMillan, CSM (Ret) Small and Ms. Roupe to evaluate the proposed 2015 RAD and provide him recommendations on any potential adjustments to make the activity more attractive to a wider demographic of Texas retirees. In addition, to the problem with the dining facility it was stated that the data base was down for maintenance during the RAD which caused problems in the ID Card Section and SJA.

5. Individual Council Member Updates:

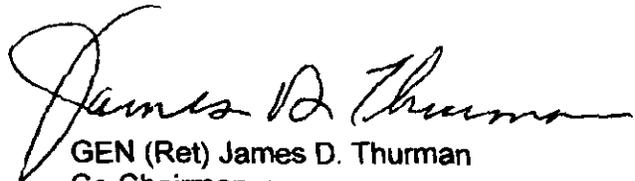
- Health Care Advisory Council Update: LTC (Ret) Pierce reported that the health care meeting will be conducted next week. He will work to schedule a tour of the new facility for the Retiree Council. Ms. Roupe reported that the Hospital Commander will recognize Fort Hood blood donors at Club Hood on January 26.
- Benefits Update: CSM (Ret) King reiterated that budget constraints will continue to affect benefits for both active and retired force.
- Installation Update: LTC (Ret) Pierce stated that the CTSF battle systems designs program may get moved to Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He said they have built a large facility there for it.
- AAFES/PX Council Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported that the AAFES/DECA meeting in November was very informative. The new AAFES facility is to open the end of May. A number of new food vendors will be introduced. There are several upgrades scheduled for the Express and Mini Mall facilities. DECA also had a lot of good news. They are bringing in more Organic foods and bringing back a value brand. The minutes from the AAFES/DECA meeting are attached in order to provide the details of changes and additions.

GEN (Ret) Thurman asked how we get the information out about all these changes. Several council members responded by stating we could use the RSO website and set up a Facebook page. Clearly, we need to do a better job on getting key information out to our retirees.

- Ms. Roupe reported that the Robertson Blood Bank will be hosting The Blood Donor Recognition Ceremony on 26 Jan from 11:30 -1300 hours at Club Hood. The Survivors Group (SIM, Survivors in Motion) will be meeting tonight at the Survivors Outreach Service (SOS) Center. The TAPS seminar that is normally held here at Fort Hood, Texas, the 3rd weekend in July has now been moved to San Antonio in March. This is a major loss for the Fort Hood Community. The TAPS Seminar brought in over 300-400 Surviving Families to the area for the two day event. From what SOS said there will only be what they call a Family Reunion Day on 1 August here at Fort Hood. More information regarding this event is forthcoming. There are still issues with the local SOS regarding events and the times of these events due to the work and school schedules.

6. Final comments: GEN (Ret) Thurman closed the meeting by stating we need to make 2015 a productive year to identify the important, real time issues. Also, he looks forward to the recommendations of the RAD evaluation team for 2015.

7. GEN (Ret) Thurman closed the meeting at 1300 hours. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 16 April 2015.


GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman
Co-Chairman


Approved/Disapproved


Christopher M. Doneski
Colonel, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff