

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIRED SOLDIER COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 13 July 2015, meeting of the Soldier for Life, 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	SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman	SFC (Ret) Moore, Member
COL (Ret) Phelps, Member	Ms. Roupe, Member
COL (Ret) Phillips, Jr., Member	COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member	COL (Ret) Portmann, Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) Pierce, Member	CSM (Ret) Minsky, Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary	
CW3 (Ret) Heath, Member	
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member	
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member	
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member	

b. Members Absent:

CSM (Ret) Small, Member
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Thurman called the meeting to order at 1145 hours and thanked everyone for their service. He began by explaining there are a number of changes coming which will affect our military force. All of the service Chiefs are changing except the Air Force. With continued budget cuts, our force will get smaller. Benefits to retirees most likely will be affected. He said we need to continue to support our retirees by identifying the issues of greatest concern to have them properly addressed through GEN MacFarland. A good example of this was the Gold Star Families needing access to post when the vehicle registration stickers stopped. He asked that we bring issues to him.

4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- CSM (Ret) King introduced our newest Council Member, CW3 (Ret) Heath.
- CSM (Ret) King introduced Mr. Gregory Ransaw and Mr. Jesus Cerrillo who represent the PENFED Credit Union. Mr. Ransaw gave a short talk about PENFED and how they are reaching out to the community to provide assistance as needed. PENFED has been serving Fort Hood for 80 years. He stated that they are here to support the military and local community.
- The Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) was discussed. Nominations for Honorary Retiree need to be submitted now. SGM (Ret) Lopez brought up the Viet Nam celebration in conjunction with the RAD. The planned Viet Nam displays are being coordinated. The Old Timers breakfast is on track. GEN (Ret) Thurman asked Ms. Bedgood to set up an appointment with the new Garrison Commander and CSM to discuss the RAD. He wants to ensure Garrison is on board with the program. GEN (Ret) Thurman also asked if there is a way to survey the retirees regarding issues. COL Phelps was tasked to work with

Ms. Bedgood to develop a survey to be completed during RAD. Specifically, he wants the following categories of issues addressed: retirement pay and compensation, healthcare, and other benefits for retirees.

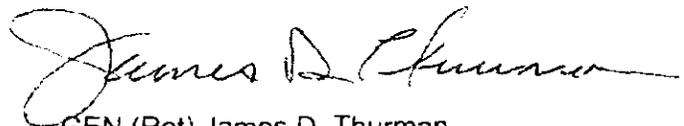
5. Individual Council Member Updates:

- Health Care Advisory Council Update: LTC (Ret) Pierce said he has requested an appointment with the new hospital Commander, COL Mark Thompson. He is trying to set up a tour of the new hospital. The commander is scheduled to sign for the hospital the first week of August; this is being done floor by floor. The grand opening of the new facility is planned for May 2016. The move from the old hospital will be done over several months. There are 5200 parking spaces, double that at the old hospital. The new pharmacy at the PX will be filling new prescriptions as well as completing refills.
- Benefits Update: CSM (Ret) King said effective 1 October, prescriptions will have to be filled through Express Scripts or on post because it is the most cost effective. Fort Hood has done away with the car stickers.
- Installation Update: No Report.
- AAFES/DECA Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported the AAFES/DECA meeting is on Thursday of this week. LTC (Ret) Pierce reported that the Warrior Way PX will move into the old PX and Warrior Way will become a family gym. CSM (Ret) King stated that the PX at Fort Bliss is losing money and that is why Fort Hood is getting a modified version of that PX.

6. Final Comments:

- CMPO (Ret) Hall stated he will be attending the Navy Retiree Issues meeting. He will be turning in a point paper regarding compensation and had questions regarding one of the issues reported. CSM (Ret) King will get it clarified for him.
- LTC (Ret) Christ commented that the 20 year compensation for retirement will go to a 401K and that there will be only one tier for Tri-Care.
- GEN (Ret) Thurman again thanked us for attending along with the PENFED folks. He asked that we continue to identify issues and push them up.

7. GEN (Ret) Thurman closed the meeting at 1245 hours. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 8 Oct 2015.



GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

Fort Hood Retired Soldier Council Minutes, 13 July 2015 (cont'd)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRISTOPHER M. DONESI
Colonel, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff