NORTH CAROLINA ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL

Post Office Box 70029 Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000
Telephone 1-800-535-6067 or 1-910-396-8591

2 July 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council Meeting
19 June 2004.

1. The quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council (NCARC) was called to order by Co-Chairman SGM(R) Law at 0930 hours, 19 June 2004 at the Ft. Bragg Officers' Club.

MEMBERS PRESENT

SGM(R) Larry Law, Co-Chairman
COL(R) Rudy Baker
COL(R) David F. Borresen
COL(R) Joe F. Britt
COL(R) Clifford M. Deal (III)
COL(R) Donald A. Doll Jr. (II)
COL(R) Donald J. Goulet (V)
COL(R) George F. Heberer (IV)
COL(R) William F. Rawley Sr. (VI)
LTC(R) Rodney C. Byers (VII)
LTC(R) Thomas E. Parsons (VIII)
MAJ(R) Howard Keyes Jr. (I)
CW4(R) James E. Flanders
CSM(R) Rodney C. Deese (III)
MSG(R) Moses L. Best
SFC(R) Salvatore J. Campochiaro
SFC(R) Richard A. Clemmons (IV)
SFC(R) William E. Schone (VI)
Mr. John Bell - IRSO
( ) indicates regional area

OTHERS PRESENT

COL Mark McAllister, Cdr. 18th SSG (Abn)
COL Vicki Post, Dir. Community Activities
SGM Frank Foronda – Whiteville, NC

Ms. Connie Gordon, AAFES

2. Mr. Bell gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. SGM(R) Law recognized guests/visitors and reviewed the material in the packet. Additionally he passed on regrets for not being able to attend from both COL Aycock, Garrison Commander, and Co-Chairman COL(R) Latella.

4. COL Post gave an update on MWR activities occurring on Ft. Bragg. She indicated that information regarding MWR activities can be found on the MWR web page. She announced that MWR has a 'match price' program at all activities. If a group is looking for a place for an activity be it a dinner, golf tournament etc. and have been quoted a price from an off-post facility – the similar MWR activity on Ft. Bragg will match that price. The RV lot has been expanded. The O'Club is going to build a patio adjacent to the Ryder Golf Course's No. 10 tee box. The O'Club and NCO Club have been up-scaled with new large plasma screen TVs etc. A comment was made regarding the possibility of building a computerized telephone information system that would list all MWR activities.

5. COL McAllister mentioned that coordination for this year's RAD was well underway. A new Installation AG had been brought on board, Ms. Nan Sanders. The Saturday morning hours for the ID Card facility have been well supported averaging over 50 people each Saturday morning. He requested that word about these Saturday hours continue to be circulated.

6. SGM(R) Law gave an update on major personnel changes and activities at Ft. Bragg: MG Swannack (82d Abn Div) replaced MG(P) Dailey as Deputy Corps Commander; COL Huggins (82d Abn Div) replaced COL Horts as Corps Chief of Staff; CSM Carey (10th Mtn Div) replacing soon to be retired CSM England. The majority or permanent party Ft. Bragg troops are back home, although some 500 have recently deployed. The entire 82d Abn Div has returned. He reported that the Garrison Commander had informed his that he is still looking for a better location for the Retirement Services Office.

6. Ms. Gordon gave an update on AAFES activities on Ft. Bragg. She commented that the profits from AAFES help support MWR activities throughout the Army and Air Force. The new optometry clinic has opened as scheduled at North Post PX. It is a TRICARE Prime activity. She passed out a number of promotional Flyers. She announced that the car wash (a drive through or do-it-yourself) at the corner Longstreet and Gruber has been renovated after a new concessionaire took over. To enhance the water pressure a new booster pump was installed. The price is about half of downtown prices. There are plans for a self-storage complex to be built near the North Post PX. During the AER campaign, Change Jugs that were placed at the check-out cashiers registers resulted in collection of $4,700 which was turned over to the AER Campaign Coordinator.

She announced that in response to queries, from people who do not have PX privileges about how they can help soldiers overseas, DoD has authorized purchase of phone cards through the PX web site phone card for soldiers by **anyone.** Specific soldiers can be identified as well as just at-large purchases which will be distributed through the Red Cross. She conducted drawings for a number of gift certificates (cards) door prizes.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Commissary: SFC(R) Campochiaro that a recent case lot sale at the South Commissary went well. The construction at the North Commissary is coming along as well as expected. Council members were reminded to continue monitoring commissary issues within DoD. It is still apparent that the possibility of civilianizing commissaries is not a totally a dead issue. SGM(R) Law reiterated the need for the Paraglide to publish 'The Commissary Corner'. It is essential that we get more young soldiers to utilize the commissary.

b. AAFES: MSG(R) Best reported that the handicapped parking area has been moved to a location closer and more accessible to the main entrance of the North PX.

c. RAD: Mr. Bell reported RAD will be held 17-18 September 2004. The dates have been published in both the latest Army Echoes and the Ft. Bragg Retiree Personnel News Letter. A special news letter dedicated to RAD will be published in Aug/Sep. Pre-RAD meeting have already been conducted. Womack AMC will again be the site for the Saturday activities. A golf tournament will be held at Ryder Golf Course Friday morning. Coordination has been made with PX and Commissary folks reference special sales, door prizes etc. Breakfast from an Army Field Mess Kitchen will again be available Saturday morning in an area adjacent to Womack AMC.

8. Regional Reports:

Region I – Western – MAJ(R) Keyes reported that he is looking for a new co-chairman.

Region II – Northwest – COL(R) Doll reported on activities that are planned for the 4th of July. The Green Beret Sports Parachute Team is coming to perform. He reported that this is a first. The plans are for a free picnic for veterans etc. He asked if anyone could assist him with recommendations as to how he could get the retirees/veterans from the different eras to get together. It appears that the WWII guys flock together as does the Korean and VN groups. Getting them together is a problem. The Cumberland County Veterans' Council was given as a reference. He has a new co-chairman. Paperwork has been submitted.

Region III – Southern Piedmont – COL(R) Deal announced that the 18 May meeting went well with some 45 people present. He mentioned that the question of how family members of National Guard and Reservists who have been activated can receive needed assistance. These folks are generally not located near military installations. He was informed that the National Guard and Reserve units have increased the Family Readiness Groups. These programs have been a matter of emphasis by the Directors of both the National Guard and Reserve. Programs are now in place. He was told that if RSO or the NCARC could be of any assistance make contact.

Region IV – TRIAD - No Report

Region V – Cape Fear – COL(R) Goulet reported that after the latest Retiree News Letter came out he had been contacted by a couple of folks. He stated that he is the Personal Affairs Officer for the Sandhills Chapter, MOAA. He indicated that he works with folks from all branches. Army families get super support from Ft. Bragg. The other services do not have the support structure to do what the Army does for the retirees and their families.

Region VI – Triangle – COL(R) Rawley reported that USOs are all independently supported. The Raleigh USO at the RDU airport which must get all financial assistance from that area is coming along well. In addition to a lounge in the airport, plans are to have 3 vehicles to furnish transportation for those service members who might have missed their transportation to Ft. Bragg - Camp Lejeune etc. SFC(R) Schone announced that the USO will fill a large void for those returning troops who pass through RDU.

Region VII – Southeastern – LTC(R) Byers expressed thanks for the newsletter notice seeking the need for someone to fill the co-chairman vacancy in the region. He received three calls and has selected a candidate. He reported on the RAD recently conducted by the Marines at Camp Lejeune.

Region VIII – Coastal Plains – LTC(R) Parsons reported that he had received a phone call from a woman who had been notified that her deceased husband's head stone had yet to be put in place (10 year void). It was pointed out that if the cemetery was a privately owned one, is was quite possible that there could be a charge involved to have stone put in place. He stated that he could take care of the problem, but, was just curious if anyone else had experienced similar situation.

9. Comments from Other Council members:

COL(R) Baker reminded members that they need to check and ensure that bank accounts are properly listed with 'right of survivorship' if a joint account, and 'paid on death' if single account. He is local AUSA chapter's resolutions committee chairman and wants to make sure that the Council and the Braxton-Bragg Chapter AUSA can feed off each other. He stated that he will be serving on the AUSA National Committee in October. SGM(R) Law and Mr. Bell mentioned that STAR Credit Cards from AAFES has surfaced as a problem area for some of our deployed troops. There have been incidents where a soldier was wounded, evacuated to a hospital, remained for an extended stay – not necessarily aware of what was really happening to him/her -- at the same time payments on the STAR Card became overdue. In some cases the automatic process of sending the claim to a credit company, or whatever, took place. End result – soldier's credit destroyed. It was suggested that AUSA take a look at the problem.

COL(R) Borresen announced that he is working with the SGS at USASOC and they have formed discussion groups with retiree issues as primary subject matter. In response to a request from SGM(R) Law, he consented to serve as the Council's liaison for legislatives matters, AUSA etc.

COL(R) Britt stated that most of the calls he receives for assistance and guidance come from other service retirees rather than Army retirees. He attributes this to the great support that Ft. Bragg furnishes Army retirees.

CW4(R) Flanders announced that he was an original member of this Council and had also served some years ago on the CSA Army Retiree Council. He commended the members for their involvement and the reports that they give at these meetings. He attended a ceremony at the VA Medical Center on Friday (18 Jun) conducted by the U.S. Postal Service. It was a dedication ceremony of the National World War II Memorial Stamp. The stamp itself, depicts the Memorial recently dedicated in Washington, DC.
SPECIAL NOTE: CONGRATULATIONS TO CW4(R) FLANDERS WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING HIS 89TH BIRTHDAY ON 4TH OF JULY, 2004.

MSG(R) Best reported on a briefing the Garrison Commander (COL Aycock) gave to a group city officials and other politicians reference the support that local communities need to give the military and the impact Ft. Bragg has on the local communities.

10. Co-Chairman Comments SGM(R) Law mentioned the latest edition of **Army Echoes.** He indicated that this edition was full of a tremendous amount of good news. The information about those who failed to enroll in Medicare Part B when they reached the age of 65 who may now enroll in Part B **without penalty** during a current open season was probably the highlight of the good news. He read from a letter from a letter from the DA Deputy CofS, G1 to commanders of Army MACOMS. The letter was about support for RSOs. He asked those council members not residing in the Ft. Bragg area who were or were not receiving the Ft. Bragg Paraglide by mail. COL Post said she would do some follow-up with the PAO on this. He mentioned that he had a contact for the new 'digital bugle' that DoD is making available as a substitute for a live bugler at military funerals. It's possible that some organization in your area might be interested in procuring one**. He asked if it appeared to be feasible to conduct NCARC meetings during the week as opposed to a Saturday. He asked that members think about it for later discussion.
The cost for one these instruments is approx: $525.
**S&D Consulting Int. Ltd
303 East 94th Street #L
New York, NY 10128
(212) 426-3258
www.ceremonialbugle.com

Next meeting is scheduled for 17 September 2004 at 1400 hours.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1115 hours.

Lawrence L. Law

Lawrence L. Law
Sergeant Major, USA Retired
Co-Chairman

Donald Latella

Donald Latella
Colonel, USA Retired
Co-Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:
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