



FORT POLK RETIREE COUNCIL
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5302
TELEPHONE: (337) 531-0363



IMSW-POL-HR-OR

14 September 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Retiree Council Meeting, 14 September 2006

1. The Fort Polk Retiree Council met on 14 September 2006 at the Family Readiness Center in Building 924. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by the Chairman. The invocation was given by MSG (R) Clark. The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by MAJ (R) Saucier.

2. The following is the attendance record for the meeting:

Council Members:

COL (R) Alva R. Lary	(Present)
COL (R) Ronald R. Thompson	(Present)
COL (R) Harry J. Montgomery	(Present)
LTC (R) Lessie A. Griffith	(Present)
LTC (R) Stephen C. Gibson	(Present)
MAJ (R) Charles E. Saucier	(Present)
MAJ (R) Alvie Brewer	(Present)
SMA (R) Julius W. Gates	(Present)
CSM (R) Carl C. Henderson	(Present)
SGM (R) Anthony L. Barattini	(Present)
MSG (R) Rudolph Bourg	(Absent)
MSG (R) Lathern P. Clark	(Present)
MSG (R) George Burrell	(Present)
MSG (R) Mary R. Stalnaker	(Present)
SFC (R) Dan M. Horn	(Absent)
SFC (R) Lovelace Williams	(Present)
SFC (R) Stephen D. Humphries	(Present)
Mrs. Dianne H. Smith	(Absent)

Honorary Council Members Attending:

COL (R) Norman A. Keith
COL (R) Warren S. Anderson
CSM (R) James C. Myrick
CPO (R) Robert L. Vincent

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Non-Members Attending:

BG Daniel P. Bolger, Commanding General, Fort Polk, LA

COL David G. Sage, Garrison Commander, Fort Polk, LA

COL William K. Statz, BJACH Commander

Mr. Jimmy D. Henry, Adjutant General, Fort Polk, LA

Mrs. Gail Braley, Chief, Personnel Operations Division, Fort Polk, LA

Mr. Steve Humphries, ACS Deployment, Mobilization, and Readiness Program Manager

Mr. Jim Stevenson, Fort Polk AAFES

Mr. Jay DeWorth, Public Affairs Officer, VA Hospital, Alexandria, LA

Mrs. Pam Irvin, Retirement Services Officer

Ms. Alishea Rim, Contact Representative, Retirement Services

3. COL (R) Lary introduced and welcomed the new members of the retiree council; SMA (R) Julius W. Gates, MSG (R) George Burrell, and SFC (R) Stephen D. Humphries.

4. COL (R) Lary introduced COL David Sage, Garrison Commander, Fort Polk, LA. COL Sage stated that he appreciates the retirees' involvement on the council, participation during the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD), and improving the quality of life in their communities and around the Fort Polk area. He stated as he interacts with the local businessmen and elected officials it is very apparent that the military retirees contribute significantly to both Vernon and Beauregard Parishes. They also have a significant impact on the quality of the Fort Polk civilian workforce. One of his major goals while serving as the Garrison Commander is to improve the infrastructure of the installation as well as the main entrance to the post.

- COL Lary thanked COL Sage for his remarks and for funding the publishing of the Retiree Bulletin.

5. COL (R) Lary introduced Mr. Jimmy Henry, Adjutant General, Fort Polk, LA. Mr. Henry discussed the 31st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day that will be held on 21 October 2006. He discussed the layout of the County Fair activities that will be held at the Family Readiness Center, Building 924, which include medical services, legal services, ID/DEERS updates, and representatives from various agencies providing information on benefits and entitlements. Other activities scheduled include Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital's self care over-the counter medicine classes at the Bayou Theater at 1000 and 1400. Brunch instead of a lunch will be provided by the 4/10 Dining Facility from 1000 to 1300 with bus transportation provided to and from the dining facility. The PX and Commissary will have special sales, and OSC will hold its annual Arts and Crafts sale at the Sports Gym. Mr. Henry informed the retiree council members that he will retire on 31 December 2006.

- COL (R) Lary thanked Mr. Henry for his remarks to the retiree council members.

6. COL (R) Lary introduced COL William Statz, BJACH Commander, Fort Polk, LA. COL Statz discussed the Other Health Insurance (OHI) card program and the requirement to receive information on other health insurance from beneficiaries. It is required that a DD Form 2569 (Third Party Collection Program – Record of Other Health Insurance) be completed to obtain the card. This information gives the hospital access to update contact information. No one will be denied care without the card even after 1 October. A booth will be set up at the County Fair to issue retirees and family members the OHI card. Recent changes were implemented to place TRICARE for Life beneficiaries enrolled in BJACH's program with outside providers. Space available care is not quality care and it has no continuity. Patients hospitalized require care that is not available at BJACH under the space available service. However, the hospital staff will continue to keep the public informed of available services. Ophthalmology services are now available making it possible for patients with cataracts to receive care. Emergency Room (ER) services will be moved to make room for renovations beginning in January 2007. Within a year after renovations to the ER the operating room will be renovated.

- COL (R) Lary thanked COL Statz for his remarks to the retiree council members.

7. COL (R) Lary introduced Mr. Steve Humphries, ACS Deployment, Mobilization and Readiness Program Manager, Fort Polk, LA. Mr. Humphries discuss the various services available to Soldiers and family members at the Family Readiness Center (FRC). One service available is a one on one media service that reconnects families with the Soldiers with a fifteen minute time limit. Briefings are also provided to spouses on Soldiers returning from deployment. He stated that the Commanding General and Garrison Commander appreciate the FRC services available to the Soldiers and their families.

- COL Sage, Fort Polk Garrison Commander, stated that the services are beneficial for the well being of the Fort Polk community.

- COL (R) Lary thanked Mr. Humphries for his remarks to the council members.

8. COL (R) Lary introduced Mr. Jim Stevenson, Fort Polk AAFES. Mr. Stevenson stated that there are future changes occurring with AAFES. Shoppette #1 on the corner of Entrance Road and Highway 467 will be opening soon with a ribbon cutting around mid-October of this year. One year after the grand opening of Shoppette #1, a chicken franchise and diesel fuel will be available. Plans are in the future for additions to the Mini Mall facility, renovations to Shoppette #3 on Chafee Road, and a new PX complex.

- COL Sage, Fort Polk Garrison Commander, stated that plans are underway for the new Huddle House Restaurant that will be located across from the Magnolia Guest House, renovations from Entrance Road to Highway 171, and a new lighted sign installed at Highway 171 coming into the main entrance of Fort Polk. Additionally, plans are in the making to have four lane roads on Highway 467 and to build walking, bicycle, and crossing trails along the highway.

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- COL (R) Lary informed the members that every quarter, there is an AAFES/Commissary Consortium Meeting. He stated that if the retiree council members have any questions/concerns, please contact Ms. Irvin and the issue will be forwarded to him.

- COL (R) Lary thanked Mr. Stevenson for his remarks to the council members.

9. COL (R) Lary introduced Mr. Jay DeWorth, Public Affairs Officer, Alexandria VA Hospital. Mr. DeWorth stated that the VA hospital has been reimbursed for hurricane expenses. Furniture such as hospital beds, ophthalmology and operating room equipment is being replaced. He discussed other projects and activities that are occurring at the hospital.

10. BG Daniel Bolger, Commanding General, Fort Polk, LA addressed the retiree council and thanked them and their families for their continued service. He stated that he represents the Fort Polk community as the Commanding General and stands behind the retirees one hundred percent. He will continue to address issues for retirees dealing with promised benefits such as health care and other challenges. He will be the voice for retirees and will ensure that the information is carried to operations command. He stated that the Army has a goal to take care of the retirees. He received questions and comments from the retiree council members.

- COL (R) Lary thanked BG Bolger for his remarks to the council members.

11. COL (R) Lary re-introduced Mr. Jay DeWorth from the Alexandria VA Hospital. Mr. DeWorth stated that one day in October will be set aside to assist homeless veterans with employment, rehabilitation, and to assist them with achieving a better quality of life. On 11 November 2006 various activities will be available for veterans at the VA Hospital. The clinic in Lafayette and Jennings was expanded to provide psychiatry and social services to the veterans of that area. The VA has a program called the National Guard Post Employment Reassessment Program that assist Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers with onsite VA enrollment and other benefit entitlements.

- COL (R) Lary thanked Mr. DeWorth for his remarks to the council members.

12. COL (R) Lary discussed items of Old and Unfinished Business:

- COL (R) Lary stated that SFC (R) Dan Horn had a family emergency so the financial report will be given at the next meeting.

- Mr. Christopher Stevenson, the TRICARE Benefit Counselor, provided the council members with a provider directory that will assist them with benefits.

- COL (R) Lary received questions and comments from council members.

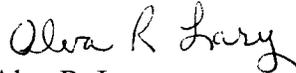
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11. COL (R) Lary discussed items of New Business:

- COL (R) Lary discussed the Army Family Action Planning (AFAP) conference, issues or concerns, and areas of consideration.
- Ms. Pam Irvin, Fort Polk Retirement Services Officer, stated that seven volunteers are needed as delegates for the AFAP conference.
- COL (R) Lary stated that the RAD Golf Tournament will be held on 20 October 2006.
- Ms. Irvin stated that volunteers are needed to assist with the golf tournament.
- COL (R) Lary asked each council member to provide their e-mail address on the sign-in sheet.
- The Chairman asked each council member for input and comments.

12. The Chairman thanked the guest speakers, active council members, and honorary council members for attending. The meeting was adjourned.



Alva R. Lary
Colonel, AUS (Retired)
Chairman, Fort Polk Retiree Council

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - Each member

1 - Army Retirement Services (DAPE-RSO), ATTN: Mr. Radke, Hoffman Bldg 1, Room 1240, Alexandria, VA 22331-0470

1 - SWRO IMA (SFIM-SW-HR), ATTN: Mr. Randy J. Blackburn, 2450 Stanley Rd, Suite 101, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6102