



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR
UNIT 28130
APO AE 09114-8130

IMEU-GFW-HRM

13 August 2009

MEMORANDUM THRU

Garrison Commander, USAG Grafenwoehr, ATTN: IMEU-GFW-ZA, Unit 28130, APO AE 09114
Region Director, IMCOM-Europe, ATTN: IMEU-RD, Unit 29058, APO AE 09081

FOR Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, ATTN: DAPE-HRP-RSO, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria,
VA 22332

SUBJECT: Minutes from USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Council Meeting on 16 July 2009

1. The quarterly meeting of the United States Army Garrison (USAG) Grafenwoehr Retiree Council convened at 1300 on 16 July 2009.

2. The following lists the attendance record from the meeting:

a. Voting members present:

i) SGM (Ret) Dave Stewart	President
ii) LTC (Ret) Doug Kramer	Vice-President
iii) CPT (Ret) Jim Meredith	Secretary
iv) LTC (Ret) William Joyce	President, Berlin Sub-Council
v) LTC (Ret) Carlos Trevino	President, Garmisch Sub-Council
vi) MSG (Ret) James Federline	Member-at-Large
vii) Ms. Erika Smith (Retiree Widow Rep)	Member-at-Large

b. Voting members absent:

i) CW4 (Ret) JP Meier	Member-at-Large
ii) SFC (Ret) Sheddric Knight	Member-at-Large

c. Non-voting members present:

i) Ms. Carrie Meinzer	Acting RSO, USAG Grafenwoehr
ii) MSG (Ret) Joe Kidd	Volunteer RSO, Berlin

d. Visitors and guests present:

i) COL (Ret) Steve Boylan	Army Europe Retiree Council Member Emeritus
ii) Mr. Mario Mena	Assistant RSO, USAG Grafenwoehr
iii) CPT Amelia Waldon	

3. President's Remarks:

a. The USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Council (RC) President opened the meeting at 1300 and asked all present to introduce themselves and their position in the RC or purpose for attending the RC meeting.

b. The President provided comments on the Retiree Bulletin Board between the commissary and PX. He was busy with duties in support of the Normandy commemorative ceremonies and believes the bulletin board needs updating. The acting RSO is checking on who has the keys/access to the bulletin board.

c. The President noted the recent medical clinic change of command and stated he would attempt to coordinate an office call with the new commander to ascertain her intent toward retirees.

d. The President mentioned that he denied an offer to join the Army in Europe Retiree Council (AERC).

e. The President would like to invite retirees to participate in future RC meetings and get their feedback and perhaps attract new members for the RC.

4. Garmisch Sub-Council:

a. LTC (Ret) Trevino stated there were four Sub-Council meetings.

b. The Sub-Council is also posting retiree information at the Garmisch commissary.

c. Retirees participated in the local county fair.

d. The Sub-Council continues to prepare for the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) in October.

e. The Sub-Council membership includes personnel assigned to the Marshal Center and garrison command. One person is retired from the Navy.

f. Mr. Kittrell updated the Garmisch sub council retiree database and is maintaining the database.

g. The RC discussed a proper name for the Garmisch Sub-Council. Suggestions included "GAP," "Southern Bavaria," or "Zugspitze." LTC (Ret) Trevino mentioned they will probably stick with GAP.

5. Berlin Sub-Council:

a. LTC (Ret) William Joyce announced that LTC (Ret) John Pepp was the new Casualty Assistance Officer for Berlin.

b. The Berlin Sub-Council hosted a farewell ceremony for the Defense Attaché.

c. Many local retirees attended a 4th of July party in Berlin.

d. LTC (Ret) Joyce and MSG (Ret) Kidd recommended a visit to the Berlin museum on McNabb Avenue.

6. USAG Grafenwoehr Retirement Services Office (RSO):

a. The acting RSO, Ms. Carrie Meinzer, confirmed the RAD in Grafenwoehr will be held in Grafenwoehr building 244 and the Grafenwoehr medical/dental clinics.

b. The acting RSO furnished a copy of the services which the Heidelberg medical clinic provided during the Heidelberg RAD 2008; the Heidelberg clinic provided immunizations, optometry, and prescription refills less than one year.

c. There was mention of what types of glasses are issued to retirees. Mr. Mena stated that active duty Soldiers are issued the wire frame glasses; retirees are still issued the plastic frame glasses.

d. Glaucoma, diabetes, internal medicine, and nutrition services will be available at the RAD.

e. The Vice President raised the question of having some medical personnel at Bldg 244 during the RAD.

f. There will be limited dental service during the RAD. It will be the USAREUR standard of cleanings and oral cancer screening; no fillings will be provided.

g. Due to the strong interest in medical services during the RAD and the RC's work responsibilities during the RAD, the President recommended the RC members get a special pass to receive medical services – especially if medical and dental services are on a first come, first served. Ms. Meinzer will check with medical and dental commanders.

h. The acting RSO provided a RAD flyer listing date, time, locations, medical support, dental support, agency support, and other information to participants at the meeting.

i. The acting RSO provided the 2008 RAD After Action Report to participants at the meeting. A special note regarding last year's RAD was the length of opening remarks. Feedback indicated the opening remarks were too long.

j. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will provide cake for the RAD. The RC is responsible for other food support. The President clarified that RC member CW4 (Ret) JP Meier will coordinate with the Warrant Officer Association. The RC will pick up the items and transport them to the RAD. USAG Grafenwoehr should provide ice coolers, coffee machine, and utensils; volunteers will assist with set-up and monitor the refreshment areas.

k. The Vice President raised the question of AERC participation in the RAD. The President was unsure and stated it was contingent on the IMCOM-Europe RSO, Mike Malone.

l. The acting RSO stated she had created a draft layout of locations for the RAD's events.

m. The President explained the reason for writing the Retiree Corner articles for the Bavarian News. He offered to use his experiences in the Public Affairs Office by taking pictures, writing the post-RAD story, etc. of the RAD. The President will welcome AFN if the acting RSO wishes; he will also request AFN "spots" on the radio.

n. The acting RSO asked which German communities should advertise the RAD for any retirees in their local papers. The President recommended that the Garrison does not advertise in the German media; rather, the retiree list should be updated with the Vice President. Additional attempts to contact retirees can be made through the RSO and RC. *Note: The President sent a written reply on 18 July 2009 to the acting RSO on RC's official position regarding these advertisements in local German papers for the RAD.* Bottom line: "We may not get optimal results for our investment."

o. The acting RSO stated that buses for the Garmisch and Berlin Sub-Councils are being coordinated. However, there must be enough participation. The Garmisch Sub-Council President will provide an estimated number of participants. If there is a bus from Garmisch, it will stop in Munich to pick up retirees in that area.

p. The Berlin Sub-Council will plan on a bus but set a number of personnel that will participate. The origin of bus is to be determined.

q. The RC raised concerns regarding billeting reservations. The Secretary checked with local commands and there are no major exercises occurring that will limit billeting on-post or off-post.

r. The Berlin Sub-Council President recommended an emphasis on closing remarks. Further discussion resulted in maintaining emphasis on opening remarks and getting feedback forms from attendees prior to their departure.

7. Other remarks:

a. COL (Ret) Steve Boylan mentioned the Army in Europe RAD is 17 October 20 09 at the Heidelberg Village Pavilion.

b. The acting RSO and CPT Waldon asked the RC members for any information to include in the USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Bulletin. The intent is to finish by the end of July. The RC President recommended waiting until the retiree list is updated and then to send out the bulletin. He also asked to extend the suspense for feedback from RC members until mid August. The bulletin is currently eight pages of content .

c. MSG (Ret) Federline asked when the next RC election is scheduled. The President believed one year remains before elections.

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d. COL (Ret) Boylan recommended everyone read AR 600-8-7 (particularly paragraph 4) where it mentions RC members are limited to serving no more than eight years. The acting RSO mentioned the AR may be under revision.

e. COL (Ret) Boylan mentioned the MERC is working on a guide for spouses/annuitants, the Graf RC should request a draft copy to review and provide any feedback.

f. MSG (Ret) Federline asked about the status of the RC constitution and bylaws. The President will respond later.

g. Ms. Erika Smith (Retiree Widow Rep) requested a copy of the list of widows. The Vice President stated he would send the list that day. Ms. Smith will contact widows to pass along information on benefits; she will coordinate with the assistant RSO, Mr. Mena.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1500 on 16 July 09 by the President. The President will notify members of the date and time for the next RC meeting. The Vice President recommended no later than the end of August.



DAVID B. STEWART
SGM, U.S. Army (Ret)
President, USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Council

18 August 2009



CARRIE E. MEINZER
Acting Retirement Services Officer

18 August 2009