



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

March 19, 2008

To Commander, United States Army Europe & 7th Army, ATTN: Retired Services Officer, APO AE 09014-9351

Thru Commander, United States Army Garrison, Grafenwoehr (USAG-G) APO AE 09114

From President, Retiree Council, United States Army Garrison, Grafenwoehr, APO AE 09114

Subject: Minutes of the USAG-G Retiree Council (RC meeting) from 12 Mar 2008.

Approved BJB 28 Mar 08
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1. Opening: The USAG-G RC meeting was called to order by the President at 1300, 12 March 2008
2. Roll Call.

a. Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • MSG (Ret) James Federline | President |
| • LTC (Ret) Douglas Kramer | Member-at-Large |
| • CW3 (Ret) Larry Simank | Member-at-Large |
| • SGM (Ret) David Stewart | Member-at-Large |
| • Ms. Erika Smith (Surviving Spouse) | Member-at-Large |
| • SFC (Ret) Merle Saunders | Retiree Sub Council Berlin |
| • SFC (Ret) Sheddric Knight | Hohenfels Council |
| • Capt (Ret) James Meredith | Guest |

b. Members Absent:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • SFC (Ret) Ray C. Velis (Vilseck) | Secretary (excused) |
| • SSG (Ret) Jessie Cabredo (Hohenfels) | Member-at-Large (excused) |
| • SGM (Ret) J.C. Moss (Berlin Council President) | |

c. Non-voting Members

- Mr. Edgar Bitterer, Assistant RSO

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3. Welcome remarks/ Presidents comments and issues:

- The President opened the meeting and introduced SFC (Ret). Knight as the new Hohenfels representative and Hohenfels RSO. Also Capt (Ret) James Meredith who is considering council membership. The President, after unanimous vote by the council members, stated that Knight will replace SSG (Ret) Cabredo as the new Hohenfels representative.
- The new proposed community boundaries for retiree services were briefed. .
- The new Garrison RSO, Mr John Currie, will report for duty on 30 March, replacing the acting RSO, Mr. Bitterer, who is the assistant RSO.
- The new AR 600-8-7, (which directs retiree services), has not been published to date.
- The IMCOM-Europe RSO, Mr. Mike Malone, announced that IMCOM-Europe will publish two retiree bulletins a year.
- Efforts to station a DFAS representative at U.S. Embassies abroad are advancing.
- President addressed expiring council memberships and his term as President which expires in May. He stated that he does not intend to run again for the Presidency. The Council unanimously extended the membership of Ms. Erika Smith, (Retiree Widow Rep).
- Retiree Bulletin Board – The final approval has been granted. A decision on its placement within the new PX-Commissary complex will be finalized in the next few weeks. It was suggested that a position between the snack bar and PX would be the best as retirees are likely to visit the snack bar for coffee and a newspaper.
- AAFES intends to enhance the concession area in the Vilseck PX complex with additional concessions.
- The Retiree Council members should review the council constitution and bylaws to determine if updating is necessary.
- Provided the minutes of the AERC Meeting from 6 February. AERC is renewing its efforts to raise the retiree postal limit to 5 pounds. He added that a special request to raise the limit for retirees mailing packages to soldiers serving in the combat areas. This Grafenwoehr Garrison initiative has been forwarded to IMCOM-Europe (and a courtesy copy was provided to the AERC).
- Stated that the Garrison Commanders conference is scheduled for Belgium in April and asked council members to provide any recommended input to him by 31 March.
- Council needs to recruit new members.

4. New Business:

- CW3 (Ret) Simank -
 - Consideration of a request to coordinate the closure of the Vilseck Medical-Dental Clinic with the Wednesday closure of the Vilseck Commissary and abbreviated food court operations on Thursdays. The expenses related to high gas prices prohibit multiple trips for retirees who often come to bases from a distance.
 - Requested open publication of the frequently changing bus schedules on post. Mr. Federline stated that this is an OPSEC issue and only CAC card holders can access the online.
 - Represented retirees at the AFAP Conference and stated success with driving the council agenda by reminding participants that they too would be retirees one day. Mr. Simank encourages retiree council members to participate in AFAP conferences to enhance retiree participation in working groups.
 - Stated that there may indeed be an issue with the new German-American tax agreement as it concerns retirees reporting their pensions to the different states. Mr. Federline said he would ask OJA to review.

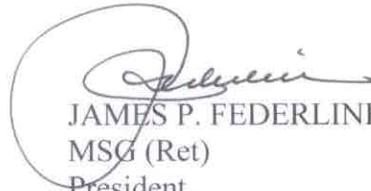
- Ms. Erika Smith:
 - Requested if a list of retiree widows could be extracted from the retiree data base. Mr. Bitterer stated that this would be difficult. A discussion followed on how difficult it was to extract German geographical locations and other retiree status from the general DFAS data base. LTC (Ret) Kramer stated that this is indeed a difficult problem that can only currently be solved with a lot of “stubby pencil” work.

- SGM (Ret) Stewart:
 - SGM (Ret) Stewart noted that the Bayreuth Landkreis fell out of the Grafenwoehr area of responsibility in the new Garrison AOR proposal. He will send a letter proposing that Bayreuth be included within the Grafenwoehr Garrison boundaries for retiree service purposes since most retirees in this area fully rely on Grafenwoehr for their support and have historical links to this garrison

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5. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours 12 March 2008, by the council President who noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 7 May 2008 at 1300 Hrs in the Command Conference Room (Bldg 500, Room 214).



JAMES P. FEDERLINE

MSG (Ret)

President,

USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Council