

FORT DETRICK ALL SERVICES RETIREE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
13 February 2012

1. The Council was called to order by the Chairman, COL Phillips at 1900 in the Community Support Center at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Pledge of Allegiance was led by CPT Glausier. The Chairman introduced COL Darden, Garrison Commander, CSM Boyce, Garrison Sergeant Major and Mr. Michael Richmond, Manager of the TRICARE Office, Barquist Army Health Clinic.

2. Attendance:

a. Members present:

COL (USA Ret) Alan Phillips (Chairman)  
CSM (USA Ret) James Shaheen (Vice-Chairman)  
CPT (USMC Ret) Robert Glausier  
CSM (USAR Ret) Reginald Kephart  
CSM (USA Ret) Bran Thompson  
Msgt (USAF Ret) Doug Markin  
SFC (USA Ret) Margaret Sayre  
SFC (USAR Ret) James Frye  
SSG (USA Ret) Anthony Malavenda  
Seaman (USN Ret) Dennis Helmstetter  
Mrs. Betty Bennett (Surviving Spouse, USA)

b. Members absent:

RADM (USPHS/USCG Ret) William Prescott  
CDR (USNR Ret) Charles Chipley  
1SG (USA Ret) John Wilcox  
MSG (USAR Ret) Fred Moxley Jr.  
MSG (USA Ret) Scott McKnight  
SFC (USA Ret) Sheila Brown  
SFC (USA Ret) Michele Thomas  
SGT (USAR Ret) Albert Van den Bogaard

c. Garrison Staff:

Mr Eddie Coleman, Retiree Services Officer

3. Chairman's Report:

a. The Chairman welcomed members and guests and reminded all of the Council's mission and objectives.

b. He reported that the Fort Detrick All Services Retiree Council Charter was signed by COL Darden on 8 November 2011 for another two year period.

4. Remarks by the Garrison Commander: COL Darden discussed the budget constraints that have been mandated and how the retiree community may be affected. He announced there would be a reduction in personnel and hours of operation at the gym, swimming pool and auto craft shop. The Gym will be closed on federal holidays and hours will be reduced

on other days. Additionally, mechanical work performed by the Auto Craft Shop will be terminated; however a partnership with a local garage has been arranged that includes discounted service and pick up and drop off service. These services will be provided at 15% discount rate over their normal rates. Individuals can still work on their cars and get expert assistance from the Auto Craft Shop staff. Hours of operation would also be reduced. In way of good news, decals are no longer required for entering the installation; however, individuals will require federal identification cards. All visitors without a federal identification card should enter through the Old Farm Gate seven days a week, 24 hours a day. This change will now match the road sign directions on Rte 15. There will be less confusion in getting into Fort Detrick.

5. Remarks by the TRICARE Office Manager: Mr. Richmond reminded Council members that retirees and family members may enroll in TRICARE Prime, Extra, or Standard. Individuals must first be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Those who enrolled instead in the US Family Health Plan (Johns Hopkins) are not eligible for care or prescriptions at Barquist Army Health Clinic or any military treatment facility. Mr. Richmond responded to various questions about TRICARE, TRICARE for Life, Medicare (part A, B and D) and various options available for having prescriptions filled. Members left the meeting with a clear understanding of TRICARE services available at the Barquist Army Health Clinic.

6. RSO report:

a. Recommends that retirees who have computer access consider receiving the Army Echoes by Email. This action will save the Army money and other resources used in printing and mailing the retiree bulletins. The reduced cost of printing and mailing the bulletin to every retired Soldier will assist in continuing this important service to those who don't have access to a computer. The website to register for e-Echoes is [www.armyg1army.mil/rso/e-echoes/e-form.asp](http://www.armyg1army.mil/rso/e-echoes/e-form.asp) or one can google Army Echoes. It takes less than a minute to register. Effective January 2012, all retiring Soldiers must register for the e-Echoes prior to their out processing.

b. A detailed summary of retirees' evaluations of the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Program is attached to the agenda. Most of the comments were favorable and expressed individual appreciation that Fort Detrick staff and Retiree Council provided the RAD program. Many retirees commented on the lack of dessert with the lunch meal and that coffee should be available in the morning. Other comments addressed the sound system, the legislative update and clarity of some briefings. All comments will be taken into consideration in the planning of the next RAD which is currently planned for 8 November 2012 at the American Legion. While many retirees would prefer to have the RAD program on the Fort Detrick installation, the renovation of the training center will not be completed in time for our event.

c. Any suggestions for guest speakers/topics for the next RAD would be welcomed.

7. Committee Reports: Mrs. Bennett stated that she attended the last PX/Commissary meeting in January. A variety of issues were discussed; the pricing of gasoline, returned items policy, and quality problems with uniform alterations. A copy of the PX and Commissary Council Meeting minutes will be emailed to the retiree council members.

8. Other Business: CSM Thompson provided an update on some of the achievements of the MG Boyd Cook foundation in providing assistance to the Post 9/11 service members and family members. He provided members a draft copy of the Foundation's brochure.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for 16 April 2012.

10. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2045.

Signed:

EDDIE M. COLEMAN  
Retiree Services Officer  
USAG, Fort Detrick

ALAN B. PHILLIPS  
Colonel, USA, Ret  
Chairman