



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE AND SEVENTH ARMY
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

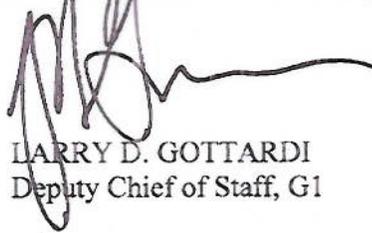
AEPE-AERC

4 June 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

1. The minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council meeting of 9 May 2012 have been reviewed and approved.
2. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL (R) Robert Mentell, President, Army in Europe Retiree Council at [+49] (171) 786-1669 or email robert.a.mentell.vol@mail.mil.



LARRY D. GOTTARDI
Deputy Chief of Staff, G1

Encl

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EA Garrison RSO
EA Co-Chair, Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council
EA Member, European Tri-Component Retiree Council
EA Member, Army in Europe Retiree Council



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AEAGA-AERC

3 June 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, United States Army, Europe, and Seventh Army,
ATTN: AEACG, Unit 29351, APO AE 09014

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

1. The 123rd meeting of the Army in Europe Retiree Council (AERC) convened at 0905 hours on 9 May 2012 in the USAREUR G-1 at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg.

2. The following persons were present:

a. Voting Members:

COL (Ret) Robert Mentell	President
COL (Ret) Charles Westpheling	Vice President
CW3 (Ret) Sandra K. Simpson	Secretary
LTC (Ret) Sheldon Dick	Member
LTC (Ret) David Fulton	Member
LTC (Ret) Jenny Dietrich	Member
SGM (Ret) Donald Norris	Member
SGM (Ret) David Stewart	Member
1SG (Ret) Donald Gwinn	Member

b. Advisory Members:

COL Theodore Fox	Deputy G-1
Mr. Michael Malone	IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Officer for Army in Europe

c. Visitors

Mr. Alan Belyea	Chief, Military Plans and Policy Division, G-1, USAREUR
Mr. Daniel Dewart	Office of the Theater Adjutant General, G-1, USAREUR
Mr. Art Veseth	Director, Theater Army Postal Operations, G-1, USAREUR
MSgt (USAF) Christina Black	Senior Enlisted Leader, TRICARE Area Office Eurasia-Africa

3. Opening Remarks. President welcomed the members of the Council and

a. Introduced Mr. Calvin Carter, the new Executive Officer, G-1, USAREUR.

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b. Passed on regrets from Mr. Brian Swiss, Director, Host Nation Liaison Field Operating Agency, IMCOM-Europe, who was not able to attend as he had planned.

4. Agenda and Minutes.

a. Changes to the agenda included: Mr. Alan Belyea, in place of Ms. Murphy, will discuss the Army Family Action Plan and Mr. Art Veseth who has an update on postal issues.

b. Minutes were accepted as written.

5. President's Report.

a. Extensions of Membership and Office: None

b. Review of the Quarter:

(1) Met with LTG (Ret) Theodore G Stroup, former HQDA G-1, when he visited USAREUR.

(2) Visited with SGM Stewart at Grafenwoehr to discuss issues for the upcoming Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council meeting.

(3) Requested assistance from the leadership of G-6, USAREUR, in resolving the on-going problems with getting the RetireeInfo list server back into operations and immediately received a response from Deputy G-6 committing support to work the issue.

(4) Met with COL Kelly J. Lawler, Garrison Commander, USAG Ansbach, accompanied by SGM Norris.

(5) Visited with COL (USA) Douglas R. Campbell, the new Chief, Readiness Division, Manpower, Personnel & Administration Directorate (ECJ1), USEUCOM, to discuss the meeting of the European Tri-Component Retiree Council (ETRC), scheduled for 13 June 2012.

c. Office Calls with Army in Europe Leadership:

(1) Met with Mr. Gottardi, G-1, USAREUR, to review current Retired Soldier issues and to receive his guidance. SGM Stewart, Army in Europe members of the Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council, back-briefed on the results of the CSARC meeting held in April 2012.

(2) Will meet on 10 May with COL Paula Underwood, Deputy Commander, ERMIC, to discuss healthcare issues and the participation of ERMIC, ERDC and TAO in the 13 October Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg.

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d. Impact of Enterprise Email Migration: President requested Council members to continue to use his personal email address but to send generic issues to the organizational email address for the Council - usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.aerc-pres@mail.mil.

e. Concept for AERC Future: To conserve travel funds in these times of reduced budgets, effective after this meeting, the Council will meet in-person twice a year (May/June and November) and will meet via the Defense Connect On-line (DCO) web conferencing service twice per year (February and August). Funding will continue to be made available for the president to travel to HQ USAREUR for all four meeting which will permit quarterly interface with the Army in Europe leadership. Other aspects that have changes are:

(1) Beginning in FY13, it is proposed to try schedule on consecutive days in June, the AERC meeting formerly held in May and the ETRC held in June meeting.

(2) Funding will continue to be made available to support the participation of the president and the AE member of the CSARC in the semi-annual meeting of the European Tri-Component Retiree Council.

(3) Funding will continue to be made available to support the participation of the President in the AE RAD and the president (or other AERC representatives) in selected garrison RADs. The support for the participation of the vice president and secretary in the AE RAD has been discontinued.

6. DCofS, G1 Report (COL Fox).

a. USAREUR Transformation Update:

(1) The first part of the main body of the USAREUR staff will relocate in the Jan-Mar 2013 timeframe and the second part will follow in summer 2013. Campbell Barracks will close by end of September 2013.

(2) On 14 June 2012, the Wiesbaden Army Airfield will be re-named Clay Kaserne and the new housing area in Wiesbaden will be opened. The new headquarters building will be named the Shalikasvili Mission Command Center.

(3) LTG Hertling will be retiring in November 2012 and will not move with the USAREUR staff to Wiesbaden in October as scheduled.

(4) In FY 14, the G1 will reduce 10% of its workforce (9 civilian workers) and by FY17 there will be an additional 16 spaces cut. This is in keeping with the overall Army re-distribution and reduction of its work force.

(5) In the next year and a half, USAREUR will be reduced to approximately 30,000 Soldiers.

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b. Status of Army in Europe Supplement to AR 600-8-7 (Draft): Draft is still in staffing with IMCOM-Europe, whose response is expected by end-May.

c. COL Fox will PCS to US Army South at Fort Sam Houston and COL Mike Mathews, currently the USAREUR TAG, will be taking his place as Deputy G-1 and G-1 Representative to the Council on or about 28 June.

7. IMCOM-Europe Report (Mr. Malone).

a. IMCOM-Europe Transformation Update: Transportation and other logistic assets will be consolidated under the command of the Army Materiel Command. Postal operations are still split between Spinelli Barracks and Sembach Airbase but will consolidate later this year in Sembach AB.

b. Changes in Leadership: Mr. Glenn Snow, Chief, Military Personnel Branch, HNLFOA, IMCOM-Europe, retired in December. The Council wishes him the best in his retirement.

8. Retirement Services Officer Report (Mr. Malone).

a. Garrison RADs: The RAD in Wiesbaden has been re-scheduled for 22 June 2012. Schinnen has been added to the DFAS representative visit agenda. Benelux RAD date in October has changed.

b. DFAS Visits: IMCOM-Europe will pay the travel costs for the DFAS representative to come to Europe in October.

c. IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletin for the Army in Europe: The June issue of the Bulletin is almost ready to be published. He will amend the text to list the invitations to LTG Hertling and SMA (Ret) Preston as speakers for the 13 October Army in Europe RAD hosted by USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg.

d. Update on Garrison RSOs: All are SBP-trained.

e. RSO Generic Email Addresses: Addresses for all but three RSOs have been changed over to the new Enterprise mail system.

f. Mr. Malone presented a listing of Retirement Services Program topics on which IMCOM-Europe had interface with USAREUR. He also presented the top 10 priorities for the IMCOM-Europe RSO program.

9. USAF/USAFE Retiree Council Report (COL Mentell). CMSgt (Ret) Lippert, Senior Retiree Representative, USAFE, and USAFE member of the Air Force Retiree Council, has returned to CONUS. As a result, USAFE will not have a representative on the Air Force, Retiree Council for its May 2012 meeting.

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10. 2012 Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council Back Brief (SGM Stewart).

a. Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council Report: The focus of this year's council meeting was on the budget situation and the requirement to accomplish more with fewer resources. The primary issues and concerns included in the report to the Chief of Staff, Army, fell into three categories: Health Care; Strategic Communications, Retirement Services and Education; and Benefits.

b. Installation Report:

(1) Army Issues (SGM Stewart): Health care remains a major concern. TRICARE system is under review and there are a number of proposals to add fees at various levels. Strategic communications, retirement services and education were a second major concern. Benefits were the third major item of concern.

(2) Army in Europe (AE) Issues (COL Mentell):

(a) Reduced Rates at Army Lodging for Retiree Appreciation Day Participants:
- AE recommended providing reduced rates in Army Lodging Facilities for Retired Soldiers participating in Retiree Appreciation Days in recognition of their contributions -- past, present and future.

- CSARC recommended negotiating price reductions with Privatized Army Lodging (PAL) program hotels [which do not exist in the AE].

(b) Postal Support to Retired Service Members thru Overseas MPOs:
- AE recommended revision of the DoD manual to permit Box R patrons to pay the Secondary Destination Transportation cost, a primary justifications for non-support of the initiative.

- CSARC recommended issue be moved forward as an unresolved issue warranting further study.

(c) Issuance of Smartcards to Retiring Soldiers:
- AE recommended Smartcards be issued to Retiring Soldiers during transition into retirement so they will continue to have access to AKO and that the Army could more easily contact Retiring Soldiers during this critical period of transition. [Issuance of Smartcards to Retired Soldiers should be based on the results of the on-going Army Spouse and Retiree Smartcard Pilot program.]

- CSARC recommended issue be tabled for this session pending resolution of the pilot and VCSA decision [on issuance of Smartcards to Retired Soldiers.]

c. A complete copy of the report is at <http://www.armygl.army.mil/rso/RetireeCouncil.asp>.

11. European Tri-Component Retiree Council (COL Mentell). The 2012 Spring Meeting of the ETRC will be held on 13 June via VTC. Primary purpose will be to review the results of the three service-level councils and review the status of the three ETRC issues: 1. TRICARE

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Pharmacy Home Delivery Program, 2: DFAS Support for Retirees and Annuitants Overseas,
Military Postal Support for Retirees Overseas

12. 2012 Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg-Speakers' Program (COL Mentell):

a. Commander's Comments: LTG Hertling has accepted the invitation.

b. Keynote Speaker: SMA (Ret) Preston has accepted the invitation

c. Healthcare Roundtable: COL (P) Jeffrey Clark, Commander, US Army Europe Regional Medical Command, will be invited to host the roundtable and COL William Bachand, Commander, US Army Europe Regional Dental Command, and Col (USAF) Richard Jordan, Executive Director, TRICARE Area Office Eurasia-Africa will be invited to join COL Clark.

13. Progress Report RetireeInfo List Server (LTC Dick). USAREUR G-6 is working on various courses of actions to restore service. Most probable course of action is the purchase of a server that will be outside of the firewall. It will have a .mil address and be able to communicate with both .mil and non-.mil addresses. The interim solution appears to be the creation of multiple distribution lists under the Council's organizational email address. This will require that the distribution lists be manually managed.

14. Special Report - Issues Updates.

a. TRICARE Support of Retired Beneficiaries in Europe (MSgt Black):

(1) No change concerning the pharmacy home delivery issue with regard to importing via post of medications to individuals now prohibited by EU law. There has not been any movement from TRICARE or ERMC on the issue.

(2) Another major concern for Americans in Germany who do not have a German insurance cards is that some hospitals in Germany are requiring an upfront payment before services can be rendered. This has apparently been caused by large number of unpaid bills. This issue affects active members of the force as well as retired service members and DoD civilians and contractors.

b. Army Family Action Plan (Alan Belyea): Mr. Belyea updated the Council on the AFAP program and presented those actions that came out of 2012 General Officer Steering Committee chaired by Vice Chief of Staff, Army, none of which had Retired Soldiers components.

(1) The program starts at garrison level and passes through USAREUR to Department of the Army. EUCOM has a Quality of Life program which runs parallel to the AFAP processes.

(2) In 2011, the USAREUR commander challenged the AFAP program to reduce the amount of money spent on the USAREUR AFAP Conference. In 2012, the conference will be

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significantly reduced in size but not in scope. One of the biggest challenges for this year and the future is to identify bill payers for new or expanded programs.

(3) The G-1 may request an SME from the AERC for the 2012 USAREUR AFAP Conference if any issue with a Retired Soldier component is to be discussed. In addition, they will consult the AERC to determine most qualified individual to participate at DA-level AFAP reviews. [Subsequent to the Council meeting it was determined that none of the issues to be considered by the 2012 USAREUR AFAP Conference had a Retired Soldier component.]

(4) President encouraged Retired Soldiers to participate in garrison AFAP conference.

c. Postal Support for Retired Service Members in Europe (Art Veseth, G-1): The legal issues associated with the status of US mail containing medications coming into Europe are still being worked. The garrisons report through channels when German customs officials inspect and confiscate medications found in in-coming APO parcels. In an unrelated world-wide restriction, effective 16 May, items with lithium batteries may not be shipped through the international mail, including APO mail.

15. Defense Connect On-line (DCO) (Mr. Dewart). Mr. Dewart provided an overview of the DCO system and explained how the Council can use it for its new meeting arrangement. He will contact each Council member individually before the August AERC meeting to ensure everyone is familiar with how to log in and use the system.

16. Progress Report - Liaison Responsibilities (SGM Norris).

a. Council members continue to do well in meeting their liaison responsibilities which serve a dual purpose – to maintain the awareness of the Retired Soldier community to those to provide services and to identify potential vital issues and concerns.

b. During the last quarter, the nine members of the Council made timely contact with 94% of the 136 assigned contacts.

17. Progress Report - AERC Web Site (COL Westpheling). No change.

18. Liaison Discussions (All). This agenda item will be re-designated as Observation Feedback and council members should be prepared to discuss issues in their liaison areas.

19. Update on Local Retiree Councils (1SG Gwinn). No update.

20. Update on Local Retiree Associations (1SG Gwinn). No update.

21. Council Administration (COL Mentell).

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a. Existing Member Vacancies: There are three existing vacancies on the Council - vice Harris, vice Grunell, and vice Campbell. Council President will look at retired population density and determine where we need to target to fill vacancy.

b. Projected Membership Vacancies (thru 1st Qtr, CY 13): None

c. Unprojected Member Vacancies: Vice Dietrich

d. Existing Officer Vacancies: None

e. Projected Officer Vacancies (thru 1st Qtr, CY 13): Secretary: 30 Dec 12

f. Unprojected Officer Vacancies: None

22. Timeline for AERC Administrative Actions. Timeline for the next meeting was distributed. Council was reminded that since the meeting will be via DCO, that numerous items on the timeline may not all be applicable.

23. Review of Immediate Action List (COL Westpheling). No report presented.

24. Farewell to LTC Dietrich (All): LTC Dietrich was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the Retiring and Retired Soldiers and their Families and Survivors in the Army in Europe as a member of the Council.

25. Selection of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment. The next meeting will be on 1 August 2012 at 1000 via DCO. The meeting was adjourned at 1615 hours.



THEODORE J. FOX
COL, GS

ACofS, G1, Representative



ROBERT MENTELL
COL, USA (Retired)
President