



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09096-9351

AEPE

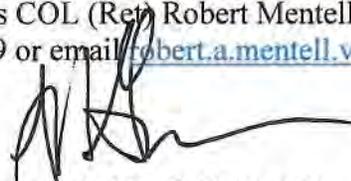
11 March 2014

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 5 February 2014 have been reviewed and approved.

2. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL (Ret) 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 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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AEPE-AERC

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MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, United States Army, Europe, and Seventh Army,
ATTN: AECG, Unit 29351, APO AE 09096

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

1. The 129th meeting of the Army in Europe Retiree Council (AERC) convened at 1000 hours on 5 February 2014 via Defense Connect Online (DCO) hosted from the USAREUR G1 conference room at Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden.

2. The following persons participated:

a. Members:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| COL (Ret) Robert A. Mentell | President |
| CW3 (Ret) Sandra K. Simpson | Secretary |
| COL (Ret) Gary Langford | Member |
| LTC (Ret) Sheldon L. Dick | Member |
| LTC (Ret) David V. Fulton | Member |
| CW4 (Ret) Melanie A. Ladra | Member |
| SGM (Ret) Donald Norris | Member |
| SGM (Ret) David B. Stewart | Member |

b. Advisory Members:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| COL Michael R. Matthews | Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, USAREUR, and USAREUR Representative to the Council |
| Mr. Michael Malone | IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Officer for the Army in Europe |

c. Associate Members:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| CMSgt (USAF, Ret) Bruce C. Collet | USAFE Retiree Council and Member, US Air Force Retiree Council |
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d. Guests:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr. Eduardo G. Francis | Chief, Military Policy Section, Military Programs and Policy Branch, Military Personnel and Plans Division, DCofS, G1, USAREUR |
|------------------------|--|

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3. Opening Remarks

a. President opened the meeting and introduced COL (Ret) Langford, the newest member of the Council.

b. COL (Ret) Langford introduced himself. He is recently retired, resides in the Stuttgart area, and is the Deputy Inspector General, USAFRICOM.

4. Agenda and Minutes. There were no changes to the agenda or the minutes as written.

5. President's Report.

a. Review of the Quarter:

(1) The Executive Committee of the Council executed the following:

(a) Refined, coordinated and obtained approval for the submission of Army in Europe Issues to Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council 2014.

(b) Interviewed, recommended and obtained approval for the appointment of our new AERC member.

(2) The President executed the following:

(a) Prepared and submitted the After Action Review for the Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day.

(b) Prepared, obtained approval, and distributed minutes of the 25 October AERC meeting.

(c) Coordinated with the USAREUR Office of Judge Advocate and USAREUR Office of the Surgeon in an attempt to obtain clarification of the applicability of the Affordable Care Act to Retired Soldiers residing in the Army in Europe who are not eligible for TRICARE.

(d) Requested and received Office of the Actuary, OSD, retired service member demographics as of 30 September 2013. Refined those demographics to produce demographics for the Army in Europe AOR and the USEUCOM AOR.

(e) Prepared for and chaired the 2013 Winter meeting of the European Tri-Component Retiree Council.

(f) Registered the AERC as a volunteer organization in the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) and documented the various member positions on the Council.

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(g) Prepared for, and participated in, the Army in Europe Retirement Services Oversight Panel meeting.

(h) Completed and submitted the annual Internal Controls Checklist for the AERC to the ACoFS, G1.

c. Office Calls with Leadership.

(1) The President and CMSgt (USAF, Ret) Collet pre-briefed CCMSgt Adams, the Senior Enlisted Leader, USEUCOM, in advance of the meeting of the European Tri-Component Retiree Council. The President back-briefed CCMSgt Adams via email.

(2) The President also briefed COL Stack, the Garrison Commander in Stuttgart, on Supporting Retired Soldiers in the Army in Europe in an office call with COL (Ret) Langford.

(3) The President coordinated with the G1 front office to get on the USAREUR CG's calendar for 14 May and rescheduled the office call with the DCG that had been scheduled for 5 February.

6. DCoFS, G1, Report (COL Matthews).

a. USAREUR Transformation Update: Transformation remains on track. European infrastructure study mentioned in the 25 October meeting is on-going.

b. Status of budget constraints: Budget is published and TDY funds are still highly restricted (capped at 50% of FY 12 level). Other actions such as the hiring freeze have been lifted.

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

a. IMCOM-Europe Transformation Update: Schweinfurt and Bamberg closures are on track and in some areas ahead of schedule. Services lost in those communities are being provided by USAG Ansbach.

b. Changes in Leadership: The Director will be retiring this summer. New leadership has not been announced. The garrison commanders at USAG Benelux and USAG Vicenza have changed.

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

a. Review of 2013 RADS: All garrisons, minus Ansbach, held Retiree Appreciation Days in October. Some problems occurred with the Benelux RAD since it was held during the furlough period. Mr. Malone attended all RADs and saw 119 individuals in his capacity as the DFAS representative. This year, a total of \$26,000 in pay and allowances were recovered.

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b. Schedule of 2014 RADS: IMCOM-Europe has announced the 2014 schedule for Retiree Appreciation Days as shown below. It has had to shift RADs to weekdays in some cases to avoid paying overtime. There is no anticipation that DFAS will provide a subject matter expert at the event, so Mr. Malone will provide DFAS-type services in 2014.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9 May: | USAG Bavaria |
| 16 May: | USAG Ansbach |
| 4 October: | USAG Benelux |
| 15 October: | USAG Kaiserslautern / Ramstein AB |
| 17 October: | USAG Vicenza |
| 23 October: | USAG Stuttgart |
| 25 October: | Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Wiesbaden |

c. Training of Retirement Service Officers: Mr. Malone confirmed that all RSOs have completed the required SBP training. All have been enrolled in the Defense Retiree and Annuitant Pay System (DRAS) training course that will be conducted via DCO starting 6 February. In the summer of 2014, all RSOs will be required to take RSO Training that will also be conducted via DCO.

d. Update on Garrison RSOs: The new RSO for USAG Benelux should be arriving shortly. The USAG Wiesbaden RSO is departing; the garrison is recruiting his replacement. The USAG Vicenza RSO will be departing in March 2014.

e. Generic email addresses for RSOs in the Army in Europe: Email address for all RSOs in Europe are shown on the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office web page at: http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe_life/retiree/service_officers/index.html

9. Army in Europe Retirement Services Program Oversight Panel back brief (COL Matthews)

The panel met on 4 February 2014. IMCOM-E is under severe budget constraints that will impact the delivery of retirement services to the USAREUR community.

10. ETRC Meeting Back Brief (COL Matthews and COL Mentell).

a. The ETRC met on 11 December 2013. EUCOM, USAREUR and USAFE representatives participated. The three service-level retiree councils were also represented: Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council; Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council; and US Air Force Retiree Council

b. Four priority issues were selected:

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Priority 1: Impact of Affordable Care Act on Retired Service Members Overseas

Priority 2: Expansion of the TRICARE Preferred Provider Network Program

Priority 3: DFAS Support to Military Retirees Overseas

On hold: Military Postal Support to Military Retirees Overseas

c. USAREUR and USAFE have submitted / will submit similar issues to their service-level retiree councils. USNAVEUR was encouraged to do the same.

11. 2014 Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council AE Issues (COL Mentell ICW SGM Stewart).

a. CSARC members have received the 24 issues that will be discussed at this year's council meeting.

b. All three issues submitted by the Army in Europe were accepted for presentation to the CSARC. They are:

Expansion of TRICARE Preferred Provider Network Program Overseas

Support to Retired Soldiers and their Families and Survivors

Retired Soldier Pocket Identification Badge

12. USAF/USAFE Retiree Council Report (CMSgt (USAF, Ret) Bruce Collet)

a. The US Air Force Retiree Council will meet 5 to 9 May 2014 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The suspense date for the submission of topics has been moved to 6 February 2014.

b. Atlantic Region (USAFE) intends to submit the following issues:

Expansion of TRICARE Preferred Provider Network Program Overseas

Veterans Seeking Overseas Employment

Retiree Pin Wear on Military Uniform

Reciprocity Agreement between US States and Germany for Driver's License Conversion

c. Due out updates for USAFE include DFAS Support to Military Retirees Overseas and Military Postal Support to Military Retirees Overseas.

d. CMSgt (USAF, Ret) Collet will be meet on 13 February with the USAFE A6XM concerning the postal support issue.

13. Special Report: Retired Soldier Demographics (COL Mentell). COL (Ret) Mentell presented demographic data (as of 30 September 2013) obtained from the Office of the Actuary, Department of Defense, on Retired Service Members and Annuitants with DFAS corresponding address in countries in the USAREUR area of responsibility. (Annuitants are surviving family members of retired Service Members receiving monies from DFAS, e.g., SBP proceeds).

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a. There are 14,785 retired service members and 2,530 annuitants in the USAREUR AOR, which includes Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The number of retired service members has decreased slightly since 2010, from 15,276 to 14,785, while the number of annuitants has remained fairly constant.

b. Four points of reference are:

- Almost half (47%) the retired military service members are Retired Soldiers.
- Over half (56%) of the retired military service members live in Germany
- Well over half (58%) of the annuitants are survivors of Retired Soldiers
- Over half (52%) of the annuitants live in Germany

14. Progress Report: Liaison Responsibilities (SGM Norris).

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

a. Total percentage of collective liaison efforts the Council members improved this quarter despite the fact that one community (Vicenza) was still without Council member presence and one community (Stuttgart) only recently received Council member presence.

b. Since the last meeting, eight members of the Council made timely liaison with 93% of the 145 assigned contacts.

c. Liaison responsibilities were updated to reflect the closure of garrisons, installations and activities.

15. Progress Report: RetireeInfo List Server (LTC Dick). The reconstitution of the Retiree Info List Server, after the Enterprise Email Transition, has been completed.

a. Three postings to the entire list of 1,700 subscribers was made. Two hundred errors were returned, presumably as the result of the residual presence of pre-enterprise military email address. LTC(Ret)Dick will review the errors. In addition, he will work on several cosmetic upgrades to the email format.

b. The procedure for direct subscription to the list appears to be working well, thus eliminating the need to manually top-load individual email addresses. Those procedures can be found by clicking on the Subscribe Here link at the lower right-hand corner of the USAREUR G1 webpage www.eur.army.mil/g1/.

16. Progress Report: AERC Web Site (SGM Stewart).

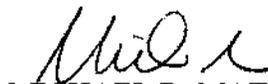
a. The AERC webpage at: <http://www.eur.army.mil/g1/content/misc/AERC/index.html> has been updated.

b. SGM (Ret) Stewart asked all members to assist in keep the website current by sharing with him update recommendations.

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17. Observational Feedback (All). Deferred to next meeting due of time constraints.
18. Update on Local Retiree Councils (LTC Fulton). No major updates.
19. Update on Local Retiree Associations (LTC Fulton). No major updates.
20. Council Administration (COL Mentell).
 - a. Volunteer Hours: Members are reminded to post their hours.
 - b. Existing Membership Vacancies:
Vice Grunell (northern Italy area)
 - c. Projected Member Vacancies (thru 1st Qtr, CY 15)
LTC (Ret) Fulton - 30 Sep 14
CW3 (Ret) Simpson - 31 Dec 14
 - d. Existing Officer Vacancies:
None
 - e. Projected Officer Vacancies (thru 1st Qtr, CY 14):
Secretary - 30 Sep 14
 - f. Date for November AERC Meeting: After considerable discussion, the Council decided to hold its November 2014 meeting on Friday, 24 October, the day before the AE RAD, as a cost saving measure.
21. Selection of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment.
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 1205 hours.
 - b. The next meeting will be held on 14 May 2014. Members are requested to let the President know soonest if they will be present in person on 14 May as it is anticipated that the USAREUR CG will visit with the Council on that day.


MICHAEL R. MATTHEWS
COL, GS
DCofS, G1, Representative

ROBERT MENTELL
COL, USA (Retired)
President