

Fort Jackson Retiree Council Meeting Minutes
Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

1. The Fort Jackson Retiree Council held its regular bi-monthly meeting at 1800, 7 January 2016, in the Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) Training Room, Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

a. Members Present.

COL Mike Molosso, USA Retired, Chairman
COL Carl W. Horn, USA Retired
COL William A. Whatley, USA Retired
COL Steve Vitali, USMC Retired
Lt COL John Marcucci, USMC Retired, Vice Chairman
LTC Tom McAndrews, USA Retired
LTC James Ross Snell, USA Retired
CW5 David A. Ratliff, USA Retired, Secretary
CSM Michael L. Armstead, USA Retired
MSGT Robert Barkalow, USAF Retired
MCPO Jim Null, USN Retired
SGM Robert B. Price, USA Retired

b. Members Absent/Excused.

COL Thomas Robillard, USAF Retired
LTC Ward D. Ward, USA Retired
CW4 Constantine S. Green, USA Retired
CSM Russel Anderson, USA Retired
CSM Jesse Deberry, USA Retired
CSM Carl M. Lopez, USA Retired
MSG Edward Lundeen, USA Retired
MCPO James T. Price, USN Retired
SGM Joyce S. Roberts, USA Retired
MSG James W. Rodgers, USAF Retired

c. Others Present.

LTC Johnny Sellers, Director Emergency Services
COL Robert Youmans, USA Retired, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Ruben Santiago, Chief of Police, Fort Jackson
MSG Greg Fountain, USA Retired, Retirement Service Officer
Mr. Daniel J. Ahern, DFMWR
Mrs. Pam Wallace, MACH
Mr. Bernard Ellison, Defense Commissary Agency

2. Chairman Molosso called the meeting to order at 1800 and thanked all present for their attendance and what they do every day to support retirees and their Families. Minutes from the 5 November 2015 meeting were approved.

3. Garrison Update – LTC Sellers:

a. Additional manpower changes are coming in FY17. Initial discussions and planning are underway but there will be impacts to the Civilian workforce.

b. Gate Guards: There is a potential loss of gate guards in FY17 along with Civilian police officers. Fort Jackson has scheduled a teleconference with Installation Management Command (IMCOM) to discuss.

c. Chief Ruben Santiago was introduced as the new Fort Jackson Police Chief. He assumed duties on 21 September 2015.

4. Old Business: LTC McAndrews, USA Retired, contacted COL Graese, IMCOM, to discuss the creation of a new award to recognize the best DFMWR. Responsibility for DFMWR has shifted to the G9 and COL Love's office.

5. New Business: None.

6. RSO:

a. The 2016 Retiree Appreciation Days (RAD) are scheduled on 19-21 May 2016. Mr. Bill Dukes, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, accepted the invitation to serve as the speaker for the Basic Combat Training Graduation Review. All articles for the Spring 2016 Retiree Bulletin are due in February 2016.

b. Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP): On 25 November 2015, Congress approved a change to allow retirees to elect spouse SBP after the death of a former spouse.

c. Retirement System Changes: Effective January 2018, several changes will be implemented to the current military retirement program. A blended retirement program grandfathered currently serving members and those with less than 12 years of service as of 31 December 2017 can choose to remain in the current system or opt into the blended system. The new system has the government automatically contributing to service members' TSP accounts. These changes mean approximately 85% of service members will receive some form of a portable retirement benefit.

7. Council Reports:

a. Golf. Restoration is continuing. Excess water caused damage to some of the golf courses. Both courses are playable, but some temporary changes have been implemented. The main problem is the greens, but the management team sees no permanent damage. Fort Jackson connected to the City of Columbia water supply but has not implemented the use of city water. Repairs made to Upper Legion Lake are allowing the course to be irrigated as needed. Fort Jackson is one of three Army golf courses to show a profit in FY15.

b. MACH. Flu shots on the 10th floor end on 8 January 2016. Flu shots are available in the Immunization Clinic. There is no smoking anywhere on the MACH campus. Prescription copay costs increase on 1 February 2016. Civilian physicians now have a new online service for prescriptions instead of faxing them to MACH. This reduces the wait time to pick up the prescription. The TRICARE is notifying physicians in the network, but TRICARE for Life physicians need to be informed of this by their patients. When off-post doctors require patient medical records, the patient should take X-rays or MRIs to their appointment. These are copied to a DVD. For other records, the patient must sign a release of information before records can be sent.

c. DFMWR. On 11 January 2016, specials for the College Football Playoffs are available at Magruders Club & Pub. The next Fort Jackson Boxing Smoker is on 30 January 2016. Water temperature at Knight Pool is lower than normal until a heater is replaced.

d. AAFES. No report.

e. Commissary. Renovation of the commissary will be visible to customers starting 11 January 2016. Some current aisles are relocated to the warehouse. Renovation is expected to last one year.

f. Community Information Exchange. Next meeting is scheduled for the week of 11 January 2016.

8. Closing Comments, Adjournment and Next Meeting: The COL Charles Murray Purple Heart dinner is 23 February 2016. There is a Combat Infantry Badge Association on post. The Military Golf Tournament is in May 2016 at Myrtle Beach, SC. The meeting adjourned at 1915. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 March 2016.



MICHAEL R. MOLOSSO
COL, USA Retired
Chairman, Ft. Jackson Retiree Council