



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
10100 NORTH RIVA RIDGE LOOP
FORT DRUM, NEW YORK 13602

AMIM-DRG-ZA

27 September 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Fort Drum Retiree Council (FDRC) Meeting Minutes, 19-20 September 2024

1. Attendance record for the meeting:

Council Member	Position Team	In-Person Meeting
COL Charles Frost USA Retired	Co-Chair CSA Charter	Present
CSM Frank Puidokas USA Retired	Co-Chair CSA	Present
COL Milledge Smith USA Retired	CSA	Present
LTC Annette Buford- Frost USA Retired	Newsletter Postcard	Present
LTC/DR Janice Gravely USA Retired	Charter	Present
CDR Wade Landis USN Retired	CSA	Present
CPT Jeffrey Saeli USA Retired	CSA Charter	Present
CSM Henry Curtis USA Retired	RAD	Present
CSM Maurice Mitchell USA Retired	RAD	Present
SGM John McCullough USA Retired	Charter	Present
MSG David Pearson USA Retired	CA Liaison Committee RAD CSARC	Present
MSG Amanda Wells USA Retired	Newsletter Postcard	Present
SFC Lance Stenfeldt USA Retired	CSA	Present
Ms. Brenda Pennels Surviving Spouse	Facebook CSA	Present

Mr. Richard Vinet Canadian Liaison	CA Liaison Committee	Present
1SG James Shinholt USA Retired	RSO	Present

2. The meeting began at 1400 hours on 19 Sep 2024 at Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720 Mt Belvedere Blvd, Fort Drum, NY 13602.

3. MSG (Ret) Wells was assigned as new Secretary for the FDRC.

4. Committee Assignments Review:

a. COL (Ret) Frost and CSM (Ret) Puidokas reviewed the committee assignments with the FRDC and assigned new members to their respective committees.

b. Committee Assignments:

(1) Newsletter and Postcard Committee: LTC (Ret) Buford-Frost and MSG (Ret) Wells

(2) Social Media and CSA Issues Committees: Ms. Pennels

(3) CSA Committee: CDR (Ret) Landis and SFC (Ret) Stenfeldt

(4) RAD Committee: CSM (Ret) Mitchell

(5) Charter Committee: LTC (Ret) Gravely and CPT (Ret) Saeli

c. Each committee assignment was discussed in detail, and expectations were clearly communicated.

5. CSA Issues Review: Slides for the presentation to the Fort Drum Garrison Command Team were reviewed. CPT (Ret) Saeli presented the CSA Issues, which include:

a. Proposed fee for Tricare for Life

b. No-cost physical exams for retirees transitioning to Tricare for Life

c. TSA pre-check for travel

d. Loss of benefits for surviving spouses upon remarriage

6. End of meeting: The meeting adjourned at approximately 1515 hours with understanding will resume 20 Sep 2024 at 0800 hours.
7. Meeting resumed at 0800 hours on 20 Sep 2024 at Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720 Mt Belvedere Blvd, Fort Drum, NY 13602.
8. Photo: Took an updated photo at 0815 hours at Clark Hall.
9. Ice Breaker: LTC (Ret) Buford-Frost conducted an ice breaker with new council members to create a positive and engaging atmosphere, break down barriers between participants, and encourage communication and collaboration.
10. CSA Issues Review: CPT (Ret) Saeli reviewed the talking points for CSA Issues, which include:
 - a. Proposed fee for Tricare for Life
 - b. No-cost physical exams for retirees transitioning to Tricare for Life
 - c. TSA Pre-check for travel
 - d. Loss of benefits for surviving spouses upon remarriage
11. RSO Items Review:
 - a. The RSO reviewed the assistance needed for Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). The RAD committee must attend all events to assist retirees with questions and explain the role of FDRC. They will also provide feedback to improve or sustain RAD. They engaged with retirees to address any concerns or direct them to the appropriate agency for assistance.
 - b. SFC (Ret) Stenfeldt assisted with setting up the retirement services table at the post exchange before RAD began. COL (Ret) Smith stood with CPL Henley as MG Naumann reenlisted him.
12. COL (Ret) Smith, CSM (Ret) Puidokas, SGM (Ret) McCullough, and MSG (Ret) Finley received Public Service Commendation Medals for their dedicated service to the FDRC as they transition out of the organization.
13. Brief to Fort Drum Garrison Command Team:
 - a. COL (Ret) Frost and CPT (Ret) Saeli presented the CSA issues to COL Myers and CSM Larson. CPT (Ret) Saeli addressed the following topics:
 - (1) Proposed fee for Tricare for Life
 - (2) No-cost physical exams for retirees transitioning to Tricare for Life

(3) TSA Pre-check for travel

(4) Loss of benefits for surviving spouses upon remarriage

b. COL Myers discussed how FDRC and retirees can support Army retention and recruitment efforts by acting as ambassadors for the Army. Ms. Pennels elaborated on the Troops to Teachers Program, highlighting how participants become unofficial ambassadors and assist with recruitment.

14. MEDDAC: FDRC was given a tour of Guthrie clinic on Fort Drum. During the visit they learned how retirees can utilize Guthrie for medical and pharmacy needs. Tricare for Life and enrolling in Medicare at age 65 for retirees was explained.

15. Canadian Liaison Report: Richard Vinet and partners discussed the issues pertaining to retirees living abroad. There are issues with being able to reach the applicable agency from overseas in the event of a retiree's death. Discussed alternative ways to reach those agencies. COL (Ret) Frost and CSM (Ret) Puidokas annotated these issues and will be discussed at next FDRC meeting.

16. Emeritus Members: LTC (Ret) Gravely made motion to nominate CSM (Ret) Puidokas and COL (Ret) Smith as Emeritus Members of the FDRC. MSG (Ret) Pearson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

17. End of Meeting: The meeting adjourned at approximately 1600 hours.

MATTHEW R. MYER
Colonel, IN
Garrison Commander