

# Fort Gordon Retiree Newsletter

## July 2019



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*This newsletter is an authorized periodical published in accordance with AR 25-30. It is published as a means of communicating with military retirees and their family members residing in the Fort Gordon area of responsibility. Articles that appear in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of Fort Gordon or the Department of the Army. Inquiries or comments should be directed to the **Retirement Services Office, Rm 236, Darling Hall, Chamberlain Avenue, Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905. Telephone: 706-791-2654***



## **Garrison Commander's Message**

Fort Gordon retirees,

On behalf of the whole U.S. Army Garrison team, I want to thank you for your continued involvement in Fort Gordon. You are a visible reminder of what we aspire to become. Retirees are an integral part of the fabric of our post and our community, and I welcome your continued participation in post services, events, and activities. At our most recent volunteer recognition ceremony, retirees were far and away the most giving of their time to programs in support of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

This past year has been incredibly fast paced, especially when it comes to infrastructure. We finally started construction of the gate 6 complex (slated to open late summer 2021), as well as the new U.S. Navy Reserve Center, and ARCYBER Company Operations Facility. On the west side of post, you can see visible progress at the ARCYBER Headquarters. On Chamberlain Avenue you can view the current destruction of Greely Hall – a necessary first step in the build of the \$1B Cyber Campus. Winship Hall was completed, and the Signal Center was relocated there from Nelson Hall. The Army tends to reinforce success, and I can see that every day here on the Fort. INSCOM has committed to investing \$95M in Fiscal Year 24 for a new complex on the west side of post, and other units are seeking to either expand their presence, or gain a foothold on this installation.

By this time next year, you should expect to see the following:

- The completion of the ARCYBER complex and a large portion of the workforce in place
- The first of four new buildings for the cyber campus (MCA1) under construction
- AAFES Gate 1 shoppette renovations complete
- Renovation of the 706<sup>th</sup>/707<sup>th</sup> MI HQ completed
- Gordon Conference & Catering Center Renovations completed – I hope to host the next Retiree Appreciation Day there!
- Courtyard building (near the MWR pool) complete with two open restaurants
- Completion of the 311 room Candlewood Suites near the PX
- Youth Challenge Academy consolidated facility under construction
- Two major projects on Lane avenue started and close to completion
- Barton Field track renovations complete
- Ambulance Bay under construction at Fire Station #1
- The first 3 of 4 General Officer quarters under construction



## **Garrison Commander's Message**

With this explosive growth, we will have a number of challenges associated with projects and traffic. For a large portion of this next year, Lane avenue will be closed, with the major east-west routes across post becoming Chamberlain Avenue, and Range Road until Lane is completed. Your patience is requested as we go through these necessary projects for the long-term viability of the installation. We will also continue to experiment with options for Gate 2 before the arrival of the ARCYBER personnel. We have a one year gap between the arrival of ARCYBER and the opening of gate 6. I'm concerned about the additional 2,000 cars with the existing gate structure, especially given we have no funding in place to add lanes to any of the legacy gates. If you have ideas on how we can increase the flow of traffic through the gate systems, while maintain the integrity of the security checks required, I'm open to hearing your ideas.

I would ask that all motorists on Fort Gordon pay attention to the speed limits, and honor the GA hands-free cell phone laws. Our law enforcement personnel have ramped up enforcement, to include the issuing of tickets with associated fines – something we haven't done recently, but is more in line with other Army installations. We have large number of trainees crossing the road networks to and from classes, and their safety is paramount – they are a large reason why this post exists.

The retirees are well represented at the retiree council meetings, and I enjoy receiving your feedback through their scheduled meetings, as well as via Facebook town halls, ICE comments, or chance encounters on post or in town. Thanks for all you do, and I look forward to continuing serving as your U.S. Army Garrison Commander during an exciting time here on Fort Gordon.

Support & Defend!

V/R

COL James Clifford



## ***DDEAMC Commander's Message & News***

CSRA Retirees,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your Annual Newsletter. Let me start by thanking you for continuing to keep YOUR hospital, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, strong and relevant to not only the community but to the Army. Your efforts through engagement and continued confidence in our mission show the decision-makers across the Army and in Congress that DDEAMC is the best military hospital in the inventory and must be sustained.

As many of you know, the Army is going through some tremendous changes and the impact on military medicine is substantial. The Army Medical Department will relinquish oversight/management of DDEAMC in October 2019. What this means is that DDEAMC will join facilities across the Army, Navy and Air Force to consolidate under the direction and leadership of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) for operations and management. DHA is responsible for ensuring the delivery of healthcare services which includes all activities involving the Readiness of our military forces to perform their combat mission; including military medical forces readiness to deliver care in combat. So, in reality, DHA is simply consolidating across the joint medical facilities what had been done by the three Surgeon's Generals. In doing so, DHA will be performing an analysis of healthcare delivery to be sure we are most effectively and efficiently delivering Readiness and the healthcare benefit.

This may be concerning in many communities but at DDEAMC, I am supremely confident that we are positioned very well to sustain services at your home of 5-Star Care with minimal, if any, adjustments in scope and services available. We already have a tremendous relationship with Augusta University, Doctor's Hospital and the triad of Veteran's Administration Hospitals which DHA is requiring for any treatment facility to sustain residency and other education partnerships. These partnerships will only get stronger and more intertwined as we move forward so we maintain our ability to ensure the best healthcare to our beneficiary population. Our retirees are absolutely critical to our hospital sustainment plan. I see no scenario where we would reduce our retiree or over 65 enrollment unless there were a decision made to move DDEAMC's Residency Programs--which is not feasible at this time.

We remain laser-focused on ensuring Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are ready to perform their mission to defend the nation. We made some very difficult resourcing decisions given the unanticipated military personnel staff reductions and the AMEDD transformation, but the main effort throughout all of these challenges was to



## ***DDEAMC Commander's Message & News (Cont.)***

maintain the scope, volume and complexity of patient care necessary to ensure we take care of our customers with safe, quality healthcare while sustaining staff skills and residency education. I am so very proud of how your hospital staff rallied together and simply conquered every challenge with a focus on the patient.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous effort placed towards improving patient satisfaction as well. We made the decision about a year ago to work with the Arbinger Institute to enable our organization's personnel to foster an outward mindset through self-reflection. I am convinced that it is making a difference in not only how we communicate internally but also is improving patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes. Our staff is putting the effort into really embracing the training and looking at challenging situations or personal conflict in a new light. I am hopeful you are noticing the improvements.

As I depart, I am struck by the fact that the legacy of DDEAMC lives on no matter who occupies the corner office on the 4th floor because of the tremendous professionals who work among our 58 buildings and you, our patients. I am thankful and humbled to have been part of the team. As is always the case in healthcare, your confidence in those taking care of you is critical. Thank you for continuing to make DDEAMC your choice in healthcare. We believe we deliver excellence, 5-Star care in the most compassionate, caring way possible while ensuring top quality outcomes through diligence and professionalism throughout the facility.

Our Mottos are "We Are Eisenhower!" and "The Home of 5-Star Care". Together, we can ensure DDEAMC will endure as the best hospital in the military.

v,r

David E. Ristedt  
COL, MC  
Commanding  
Dwight David Eisenhower AMC  
david.e.ristedt.mil@mail.mil  
O-706-787-0300  
C-706-513-9228  
F-706-787-2854  
DSN: 773-0300

## **Retirement Services Officer's Message**

The Retirement Services Office is located on Fort Gordon in Darling Hall, Room 237. We can be reached at (706) 791-2654/4774/1950 or by e-mail at [usarmy.gordon.imcom.list.fg-retiree-service-office@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.gordon.imcom.list.fg-retiree-service-office@mail.mil). We encourage Retirees to call for an appointment; although walk-ins are welcome, appointments have priority. Hours of Operation are Monday-Friday 0730-1600.

The link below provides information pertaining to Retiree's benefits, services offered to retirees, and basic information. We also have copies available in our office. [https://soldierforlife.army.mil/sites/default/files/content/docs/static/2016\\_US\\_Army\\_Retired\\_Soldier\\_Handbook.pdf](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/sites/default/files/content/docs/static/2016_US_Army_Retired_Soldier_Handbook.pdf)

Respectfully,  
Antoinette White



## **Retiree Council Co-Chairs' Message**

Greetings to all the Retirees and their Families in the Fort Gordon and surrounding communities! We have been working diligently to expand our outreach in an effort to address any and all retiree concerns in a satisfactory manner. If you have comments, questions or issues please contact the Retirement Services Officer at 706-791-2654, or email us at [ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com).

Although November seems a long way off, it is not too early to pencil in the upcoming Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) scheduled for Saturday, 2 November, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Please stay tuned for more details as they will be posted on the Fort Gordon webpage and retiree council FaceBook page.

Again, it is our privilege to serve you and your Families. We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting or at Retiree Appreciation Day 2019!

COL (Ret) Glenn Kennedy & CSM (Ret) Ron Pflieger  
Fort Gordon Retiree Council Co-Chairs

## Fort Gordon Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

**When:** Saturday, November 2, 2019

**Where:** Gordon Conference and Catering Center, Building 18402, intersection 19<sup>th</sup> street and Brainard Avenue. Registration starts at 0800 hours; opening ceremonies start at 0900 hours; briefings and medical services by DDEAMC will be from 0930 hours to 1130 hours; this part of the event is **free** to all participants.

**Lunch:** For those retirees that desire to attend the luncheon **reservations** are required and will cost **\$10.00** for each attendee. Unlike in previous years there will be only **one meal selection: Soup & Salad Bar**. This year's luncheon will be hosted in the **same location (Gordon Conference and Catering Center)** as the retiree activities for the RAD. Regardless of whether you plan to purchase lunch or not **all retirees** are invited to hear the informative briefings given by the Garrison Commander and Commander, DDEAMC, at the RAD luncheon room. Reservations if desired can be made by two methods: calling into the Retirement Services Office (RSO) Fort Gordon at (706)791-1950 or emailing your reservation at the Fort Gordon Retiree Council email address: [ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com).

### Free Seminars include:

Social Security/Medicare/TRICARE for Life Info  
Retirement Dental Plan  
Casualty Assistance Process  
Alzheimer's: Know the 10 Signs, Early Detection Matters  
Identity Theft

### DDEAMC Services:

Flu shots  
Pneumonia shots  
Cataract Screenings

### Booths/Info Tables:

JAG Legal Assistance  
First Command Investments  
Retiree Council Information  
PX/Commissary Sales/Specials



## **Fort Gordon Retiree Council 2019**

### **Co-Chairs**

**COL(USA Ret) Glenn Kennedy/CSM(USA RET) Ronald Pflieger**

### **Officers:**

COL(USA Ret) Kelly Knitter – Recruiting/Membership Committee

COL(USA Ret) Kelly Jimenez – Outreach Committee

COL(USA Ret) Arlester Vernon – Retiree Issues/Concerns Committee

COL(USA Ret) Mike Lemons – Recruiting/Membership Committee

LTC(USA Ret) Beulah Nash-Teachey – Recruiting/Membership Committee

LTC(USAF Ret) Jim Ball – Retiree Newsletter/Public Relations Committee/AF Liaison

LTC(USA Ret) Joel Shaw – Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Committee

LCDR(USN Ret) Raymond Casella – Retiree Issues/Concerns Committee/Navy Liaison

MAJ(USA Ret) Bert Takahashi – Retiree Newsletter/Public Relations Committee

CW3(USA Ret) William Colbert – Outreach Committee

### **NCOs:**

CSM(USA Ret) Thomas Clark – Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Committee

CSM(USA Ret) Marcus Campbell – Retiree Issues/Concerns Committee

CSM(USA Ret) Vernon Praymous – Retiree Appreciation Day Committee

SGM(USA Ret) Charles Calkins – Retiree Newsletter/Public Relations Committee

MSG (USA Ret) Savannah Praymous - Retiree Appreciation Day Committee

SFC (USA Ret) Lakisha Randolph - Outreach Committee

GYSGT(USMC Ret) James Bride – Retiree Newsletter/Public Relations Committee/Marine Corps Liaison

TSGT(USAF Ret) Dwayne Crew – Outreach Committee/AF Liaison

**To contact members of the Council email us at [ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com) or call the Retirement Services Office (RSO) at (706) 791-2654/4774.**

**Retirees interested in becoming a member of the Council should stop by the RSO and pick up an application. An application can also be obtained by emailing the Council at it's email address. New applicants based on openings will be voted on by the current council members at our Quarterly meetings.**

## **Procedures for Submitting Retiree Issues/Concerns to the Retiree Council**

The Fort Gordon Retiree Council provides a means for the Retiree population to present the most relevant issues/concerns and recommendations to Army Leadership. However, it is not intended to be all encompassing or otherwise replace other recognized processes. The Retiree Council has an Issues and Concerns Committee that is responsible for receiving, developing, and attempting to address issues/concerns of significant scope, scale, or impact. The Retiree Council submits those issues/concerns beyond its ability to resolve to the Garrison Commander.

To ensure clarity, submissions should be in the standard military format of issue, discussion, recommendation with clear explanation of the scope, scale, or impact of the concern. Please include a contact name, telephone number and email address. A pre-formatted form can be obtained and submitted by contacting the Retiree Council by email at: [ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ftgordonretcouncil@gmail.com).

The Retiree Council also attempts to assist with individual or smaller scale issues, such as request for information. Though not a responsible agency, in many cases the council will be able to assist by answering basic questions or providing information regarding the appropriate authority to address a particular concern. Contact the Retiree Council via email or stop by the Retirement Services Office (RSO) in room 237, Darling Hall, Fort Gordon: phone numbers (706) 791-2654/4774/1950 for assistance.

## Volunteer Opportunities for Retirees

If you are interested in making a difference in the community where you live, work or play, volunteer opportunities at Fort Gordon may be just what you are looking for. To review current vacancies, go to the Fort Gordon MWR website and then select the Community Support link on the top of the web page. Scroll down to the Army Volunteer Corps and click on the link for the latest information on volunteer opportunities. Some of the organizations typically seeking volunteers are: American Red Cross (ARC), Better Opportunities for Single Service Members (BOSS), and Child and Youth Services (CYS). For more information you can contact the Army Volunteer Corps at: (706)791-3579.

As a retiree if you want to get more directly involved in helping our veterans the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center is always looking for volunteers to assist veterans and their families at their facilities. Retirees who have spare time on their hands and are looking to help other military personnel who are in need can contact Robert Frasier, in charge of volunteer services via email at: [Robert.Frasier@va.gov](mailto:Robert.Frasier@va.gov) or call uptown (706)733-0188 ex 3020 Donna Ingram, Downtown (706)733-0188 ex 5959 Robert Walton or Fisher House (706)729-5773 Courtney Deese.





## Special Retiree Notes

**Quarterly Retiree Council Meetings (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)** – are scheduled by the Retirement Services Officer (RSO). The primary purposes of the meetings is to inform/update the Garrison Commander of issues/concerns submitted by retirees and their dependents or problems identified by Council members that require resolution at the Garrison/Installation or higher headquarters level. Retirees are welcome to attend all meetings and observe/listen to the ongoing discussions. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2019 in the Garrison Commander's Conference Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor Darling Hall). Meetings are scheduled to begin promptly at 0900 hours.

**Retiree Council Info** – can be found at the following media locations: on **Facebook** (type in Fort Gordon Retiree Council once you sign in), the **Fort Gordon Globe** (the Garrison's weekly newspaper, the **Fort Gordon Installation Webpage** online (once you open the webpage click on Services and scroll down to the Retirement Services Officer (RSO) link, our annual **Fort Gordon Retiree Newsletter** (published in the July/August time frame; primary means of dissemination is via email with limited hard copies; retirees desiring a copy should ensure that they send a valid email to our retiree council email address or contact the RSO and provide a valid mailing address if you do not have a computer), and just initiated this year the **Fort Gordon Retired Servicemembers Bulletin**, published quarterly.

**Social Security is NOT going bankrupt** – contrary to what you have been hearing in the news/TV the information being disseminated is very misleading. Until recently Social Security was collecting more money from payroll taxes than what it was paying out to beneficiaries and was able to accumulate a reserve of approximately \$2.89 trillion dollars. Last year (2018) however was the tipping point. Due to more boomers retiring the ratio of workers to Social Security recipients has changed and the program had to dip into its reserves for the first time to pay full benefits to all persons currently receiving benefits. It is now forecasted that the reserves could be exhausted in 2034. Even if it happens, Social Security will NOT go bankrupt (money is still coming in via payroll de-

ductions) however because less money will be coming in versus what is suppose to paid to beneficiaries the program will continue to pay benefits but at a rate of 79 percent of what recipients are expected to receive. **(Source Document – AARP Bulletin, VOL. 59, NO. 9 dated Nov 2018).**

**MEDICARE at 65** -retirees who turn 65 years of age are normally required to find an outside provider to take care of their medical needs as they are no longer eligible for **TRICARE**. Before contemplating this action retirees who are about to turn age 65 should stop by and consult with the **Beneficiary Services Office** located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor DDEAMC. The mission of the office is serve as your advisor and/or liaison between DDEAMC and civilian providers. The office is open between 7:30AM – 4 PM, Mon – Fri; phone : (706)787-6261. While paying for your medical benefits thru MEDICARE (normally deducted from your social security benefits if you are receiving social security payments) you may be able to continue receiving your medical care if you desire from a primary care provider (PCP) on the installation. **(Source – Beneficiary Services Office, DDEAMC)**

