



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

AEPE-AERSC

1 October 2018

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

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retired Soldier Council Meeting

1. The 147th meeting of the Army in Europe Retired Soldier Council (AERSC) convened on 21 August 2018 at 1000 via teleconference from the G1 Conference Room, Clay Kaserne. The first meeting of the Council was 29 August 1980.

2. The following persons were present:

a. Members:

LTC (Ret) David Fulton	President
CW3 (Ret) Sandra K. Simpson	Secretary
COL (Ret) Karl Goetzke	Member
COL (Ret) Christopher Benson	Member
COL (Ret) Robert Mentell	Member
SGM (Ret) Michael Richter	Member
SGM (Ret) David Stewart	Member

b. Advisory Members:

COL Matthew Rasmussen	Deputy G1
Mr. Ed Francis	USAREUR G1 Policy
Mr. Daniel Kessinger	IMCOM-Europe, Chief MILPER
Mr. Myron Bradley	IMCOM-Europe
Mr. Stacey Hendrix	IMCOM-Europe, RSO

3. Opening Remarks: (LTC Fulton). LTC Fulton welcomed the members and began the discussion concerning issues and events happening since the last AERSC meeting in June.

a. Retiree Casualty Vignette Update: As a result of the June AERSC Minutes meeting, LTG (Ret) Ray Mason, President, Army Emergency Relief (AER), disseminated written guidance to AER staffs clarifying that AER is able to support with funeral expenses for a Retired Soldier on a case by case basis when unique circumstances are involved (such as those highlighted in the vignette). The Council also noted that LTG Mason used the "Soldier for Life" logo on his written guidance, which helps further the message that Soldier for Life encompasses the entire life span of a Soldier. COL Goetzke requested permission to informally ask someone he knows

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from the Battlefields Monument Commission if it is possible for interment in these cemeteries under unique circumstances/on a case by case basis.

b. US Army Recruiting Command's Partnership Outreach Program: Both LTC Fulton and Mr. Kessinger have registered to support this program. While both received welcome letters from the USAREC Commander, they are still waiting to hear from the local recruiters saying when and where their partnership and support can be helpful in recruiting in the local footprint.

c. Career Skills Program: The Army will start awarding credentials to Soldiers for training/skills received while in the Army. This is expected to help Soldiers transition quickly to civilian work once they leave the military. In CONUS, there are many Career Skills Program opportunities that provide Soldiers with relevant training that can directly lead to civilian jobs upon military discharge. USAREUR Soldiers have the opportunity to attend this training in CONUS but requires support and resourcing from their chain of command. The primary Career Skills Program available to Soldiers in Europe is the Veteran's Affairs (VA) Warrior Training Advancement Course (WARTAC), which provides the opportunity to work with the VA upon completion of the training and discharge from the military.

d. Army Combat Fitness Test: The Army is transitioning to a new, six-event fitness test. The six events in the new test include Strength Deadlift, Standing Power Throw, Hand Release Push-Up, Sprint, Drag and Carry, Leg Tuck, and a 2.0 mile run. The entire test will take approximately 50 minutes and is gender neutral.

e. Blended Retirement System (BRS): As of August, less than 15% of first-term Soldiers in the Active Army and less than 7% of first-term Soldiers in the Reserve Component have opted into the BRS. The opt-in period ends on 31 December. The Council perceives that the low registration rates may stem from the lack of leader involvement, understanding, and interest on the topic.

f. FEDVIP Transition: The open season for Retirees to sign-up for a dental and/or vision program is 12 November to 10 December 2018. The website for information and eventual sign-up is <https://tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/indexAction>.

g. Retired Soldier for Life Webpage Update: There is now a link on the main USAREUR homepage to the Retired Soldier for Life webpage. The Retired Soldier for Life webpage will link to the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office (RSO) webpage at http://www.imcomeurope.army.mil/webs/sites/europe_life/retiree/index.html and additional links. The AERSC made several suggestions to improve the RSO webpage. SGM Stewart will work with Mr. Hendrix to update the webpage to ensure content is accurate.

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4. DCS, G1 Report (COL Rasmussen).

a. COL Rasmussen reported the Army focus is shifting from Korea back to Europe. Poland remains a strong focus for USAREUR staff and creating a sustaining infrastructure in support of Atlantic Resolve is a major priority.

b. The Director of AER will be visiting USAREUR later this year.

USAREUR has been tasked by USAREC to send Soldiers back to CONUS to assist with recruiting efforts.

5. IMCOM-Europe Update (Mr. Kessinger). IMCOM-Europe confirmed the date, time, and location for the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) events during October 2018.

USAG RAD Schedule

12 October USAG Italy	Golden Lion Conference Ctr, BLD 311 (0800-1300)
16 October USAG Bavaria	All Purpose Center, Rose Bks, Vilseck, (0800-1500)
17 October USAG Ansbach	BLD 5845 Von Steuben Community Center on Bismarck (0800-1400)
18 October USAG Rheinland-Pfalz/Ramstein	BLD 302 Ramstein Officers Club (0800-1400)
19 October Site Schinnen	BLD 39 Community Events Center (0900-1400)
20 October USAG Benelux/Brussels	BLD 401 SHAPE Medical Clinic (0800-1400)
25 October USAG Stuttgart	BLD 2505 Swabian Special Events Center Patch BKS, (0800-1400)
26 October AERSC Meeting	G1 Conference Room
27 October USAG Wiesbaden/AERSC RAD	BLD 1000 Mission Command Center (0730-1400)

a. A DFAS representative will attend all RADs.

b. The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) indicated they will support the RADs in Stuttgart and Wiesbaden and the Italy unit will support Vicenza. IMCOM-Europe is continuing to engage the FBU to support all RADs.

c. Mark Overberg, DA RSO or his Deputy, Maria Bentinck, will attend and serve as the keynote speakers at all the RADs.

6. Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council (CSARSC) Update (LTC Fulton). The report from the April CSARSC is awaiting approval from the Chief of Staff, Army.

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7. Way Ahead: (LTC Fulton)

a. Website Improvement: Council members were reminded to submit comments and suggestions for the IMCOM-Europe Retired Soldier webpage to SGM Stewart.

b. Briefs to New Garrison Leaders: LTC Fulton will review the previously-used AERSC brief to brief incoming garrison leadership. He will also make himself available, when possible, to assist AERSC members in conducting their introductory meeting with new Garrison Commanders.

c. 26 October - Next AERSC meeting.

d. 27 October - Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day (AE RAD).

e. 12 Nov-10 Dec - Federal Benefits Open Season.

f. Planning for the 150th AERSC Meeting (May 2019).

8. The meeting adjourned at 1210.



MATTHEW F. RASMUSSEN
COL, GS
DCS, G1, Representative

David V. Fulton

DAVID V. FULTON
LTC, USA (Retired)
President