



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AND FORT JACKSON
2400 JACKSON BOULEVARD
FORT JACKSON, SC 29207-5015

ATZJ-CG


MEMORANDUM FOR Chairman, Fort Jackson Retiree Council, Fort Jackson, SC 29207

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Jackson Retiree Council Meeting (5 March 2020)

ACTION OF APPROVING AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Fort Jackson Retiree Council meeting conducted on 5 March 2020 are approved/disapproved.

Encl


MILFORD H. BEAGLE, JR.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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

1. The Fort Jackson Retiree Council held its regular bi-monthly meeting at 1500, 5 March 2020, in the Dorn VA Hospital Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina.

a. Members Present.

COL Mike Molosso, USA Retired, Chairman
COL William A. Whatley, USA Retired
COL Thomas Robillard, USAF Retired
Lt COL John Marcucci, USMC Retired, Vice Chairman
LTC Tom McAndrews, USA Retired
CW5 David A. Ratliff, USA Retired, Secretary
CSM Michael L. Armstead, USA Retired
MSG Edward Lundeen, USA Retired
MSGT Robert Barkalow, USAF Retired
SGM Robert B. Price, USA Retired
Mr. David Omura, Director Columbia VA Healthcare System
Mr. Sterling Bird, VA Healthcare System

b. Members Absent/Excused.

COL John Gergulis, USA Retired
COL Carl W. Horn, USA Retired
COL Steve Vitali, USMC Retired
LTC James Ross Snell, USA Retired
CW4 Constantine S. Green, USA Retired
CSM Russel Anderson, USA Retired
CSM Jesse Deberry, USA Retired
CSM Carl M. Lopez, USA Retired
MCPO Jim Null, USN Retired
SGM Joyce Roberts, USA Retired
TSGT George Geriner, USAF Retired
Mrs. Pamela Wallace, Civilian Retired
Mrs. Angie Evans, Surviving Spouse
Mrs. Donnell Baker, Surviving Spouse

c. Others Present.

COL John Hankins, Garrison Commander
LTC Tajudeen O. Ottun, Chief, Department of Pharmacy, MAHC
LTC Audrey Kizzie, Chief, Army Public Health, MAHC
Mr. Mark Cox, Deputy Garrison Commander
CSM Lewis Kellam, USA Retired, DHR
MSG Greg Fountain, USA Retired, Retirement Services Officer
Ms. Regina Harlan, Retirement Services Office

Mr. John Keegan, FMWR
Ms. Yalidza Tallah, Managed Care, MAHC
Mrs. Rose Ann Turner, FMWR
Mr. Jeff Soots, Dorn VA Healthcare System
Mr. Virgil Thomas, Dorn VA Healthcare System
Ms. Sarah Gay, Army Public Health, MAHC

2. Chairman Molosso called the meeting to order at 1500 and thanked all present for their attendance and what they do every day to support Retirees and their Families. He gave a special thank you to Mr. Omura and the entire Dorn VA staff for hosting the meeting. Minutes from the 9 January 2020 meeting were approved.

3. Garrison Commander Update:

a. Upcoming Events: Women's History Luncheon, 20 March 2020; Fireflies, 8 April 2020; Victory Week, 30 May – 6 June 2020.

b. Housing Summit: Meeting was held with GEN Perna, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command.

c. Facility Investment Strategy: BCT 4 was approved and BCT 5 is being studied.

d. Ammunition Control Points: Improvements were made to ACP 2 and 4.

e. Veterans' Health Identification Card (VHIC): Effective 1 January 2020, Disabled Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, Medal of Honor recipients and former POWs were eligible to use facilities on Fort Jackson. There are 56,000 people in South Carolina eligible. 1,815 Veterans have been granted access to Fort Jackson.

f. COVID-19: Fort Jackson is implementing active and passive measures to contain the virus. Travel is being monitored for Soldiers and Families.

g. Sanitary Products: AAFES limiting purchase to one per customer. DeCA is working to obtain approval to ration sanitary products.

h. Commissary Parking: Reserved spots at the Commissary were counted. After discussion with SJA, 59 spaces are reserved with a loss of 16 spaces.

i. COL (Ret) Angelo Perri: Memorialization discussion continues. Mr. Cox has a packet on the steps necessary to complete the memorialization process.

j. Town Halls: Three Town Halls are scheduled for 5, 6, and 7 March 2020 to update all constituents (Soldiers, Families, Retirees, etc).

k. Fort Jackson App: The app is available and being expanded.

4. VA Tour: The Retiree Council received an extremely informative briefing and tour of key operations within the Dorn VA Hospital. Specific areas visited were the Welcome Center, Police Operations and the Warrior Walk. The Retiree Council greatly thanks Mr. Omura, Mr Soots, Mr Bird and his entire staff for their willingness to plan and conduct an absolutely awesome tour and to host our Retiree Council meeting.

5. Old Business: None.

6. New Business: Disabled Veterans Benefits were implemented on 1 January 2020. DFMWR is getting the information out to the public about Fort Jackson facilities they are eligible to use. Dorn VA has email contact with 140,000 registered users and will email DFMWR information to them.

7. RSO: Retiree Appreciation Days 2020 (RAD) is 14 – 16 May 2020. COL (Ret) Sam Boone will be the guest speaker. National Defense Authorization Act 2020 eliminates the SBP offset starting in February 2021.

8. Council Reports:

a. Golf. 27 March 2020 is the target date to complete work at #10.

b. MAHC. Pharmacy receives 30% of new prescriptions in hard copy. This is a time-consuming process that increases wait times. In December 2019, the average wait time was 2.5 – 3 hours. In January 2020, wait times were 50 minutes on average and 40 minutes since late February. Funding was received to modernize automated systems. New hires also reduced wait times. COVID-19 is a major concern. Information on prevention was distributed to the attendees. MAHC will not be impacted by reductions from the Defense Health Agency.

c. DFMWR. The World Long Drive competition is 19 May 2020 and will be broadcasted on the Golf Channel. Discussions are being held for a potential Pro-Am event. NCO Club is hosting the Easter Brunch.

d. AAFES. No report.

e. Commissary. No report.

f. Community Information Exchange: No report.

9. Closing Comments, Adjournment and Next Meeting: MG (Ret) William Grimsley was confirmed to lead the new S.C. Department of Veterans' Affairs. The military retired pay exemption is being held up by the Senate Finance Committee. The next meeting is 7 May 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 1800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Molosso', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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