



Fort George G. Meade Retiree Newsletter





Garrison Commander

Col. Michael A. Sapp



To all of you supported by Fort George G. Meade, hello and thank you for being a part of Team Meade! I cannot believe my first year went by so quickly. I fear I haven't really taken the time to "smell the roses," so to speak, but there is so much I want to do in my second year that it may just have to wait a bit longer. If you hadn't heard, in March, the Association of Defense Communities named us one of just five 2023 "Great American Defense Communities." That honor was only possible because of all the supporting organizations, both

inside and outside the fence line, who make it their mission to take care of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, Coast Guardsmen, DoD Civilians, and Families. They understand the importance of the Fort Meade installation, serving as the nation's platform for projecting power in the form of 1s and 0s by way of intelligence, information, and cyber operations. These selfless teammates also understand that today's missions would not be possible if not for the path paved by you all, our retiree population, which is why we're so excited to host you and show our appreciation at the next Retiree Appreciation Day. There's no RSVP, so please, come see us on October 27th! And if it happens to suit you, consider joining our Retiree Council while here, for only with a strong council can we ensure that we are headed in the right direction. Thank you, for your service to this great nation and your continued works, today

Greetings from the Fort Meade Retiree Council

Chairman: Dr. Jean Simmons: It is with great pleasure that I assume the duty of your new Chairman for the Retirement Council. It was a joy working with Bert Rice for many years and I wish him well as he fully enjoys being in Montana and retired from so much work. There are many matters that are important to the Retirees of Fort Meade community, and we are working with the command team and all entities to provide the most current information and support to all retirees we serve. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our current members for their unyielding support for the Retiree Council. We are very excited to prepare for the upcoming Retiree Appreciation Day and all other upcoming events. We are soliciting more retirees in our community to join us to get the word out about our meetings and all the efforts we are expending to stay engaged in our community. If you have questions, please email me at jetansimmons440@gmail.com. We look forward to serving you and hearing your concerns and ideas. Come join us in the PX at our quarterly meetings. The next meeting is 9 September 2023. Proud to serve.

Fellow retirees. I am SGM (Ret) Jim Gilbert your Vice Chair of the Ft Meade Retiree Council. I would like to personally thank our outgoing Chair, Col (Ret) Bert Rice who has moved out of the area. He has given many years as our Chair of the retiree council and did an outstanding job representing us and was a great mentor to me as well as many others. I would like welcome our new Chair, Col (Ret) Jean Simmons. Col Simmons has served as a member of our retiree council for many years and has exceptional credentials and I look forward to working with her as the Vice Chair. I have been a regular member of the council for many years and enjoy the opportunity to make things better for us retirees. The council always welcomes your feedback. Feel free to e-mail me at dinfosdot@gmail.com or text/ phone 301-875-3521. We are always looking for new members. Our council meets quarterly at Fort Meade. I look forward to meeting you at the Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day at the McGill Training Center on Friday, October 27th. Proud to be a Soldier for Life! Hooah

Fort Meade Retiree Council Members

- Col. Jean Simmons, USA Ret. (Chairman)
- SGM James (Jim) Gilbert, USA Ret. (Vice-Chairman)
- Col. Beverly Maliner, USA, Ret. (Secretary)
- Col. Erwin Burtnick, USA Ret.
- Col. Roy Harris, USA Ret.
- Col. Joy Napper, USA Ret.
- 1st. Sgt James West, USA Ret.
- 1st. Sgt. Richard Gillman, USA Ret.
- MSG Eugene Johnson, USA Ret Sgt.
- Staff Sgt. Walter Hollman Sr., USA Ret.
- Ms. Missy Duncan, Military Spouse

Stay involved! Join a local military retiree council You may have retired from the Army, but that doesn't mean your involvement with the military has to end! Stay connected to fellow veterans and weigh in on important issues in your local retiree council. Contact your local Retirement Services Officer (RSO) for more information. To find your RSO: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/rso>

Notes from the Fort Meade Retirement Services Officer: Ms. Christine M. Hopke

Greetings! I would like to take this time to introduce myself and let you know how much I look forward to serving you. I serve as the Installation Retirement Services Officer (RSO) and Retirement Services Program Manager. My responsibility to you is to maintain awareness of on-going proposed legislation and resulting changes in law relating to the Retirement Services Program. The Retirement Services Office provides quality service regarding benefits, entitlements, information and referral to retirees and their families, as well as active-duty Soldiers and their families preparing for retirement. I have a great team! Please welcome: Ms. Karen Pouncy, Ms. Hawa T. Wilkinson, Mr. Roderick S. Gray, and Ms. Cynthia Lopez. Our focus is to provide world class customer service. The RSO is in building 4550 Parade Field Lane, room 150. Please feel free to walk in between the hours of 1300-1500.

Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season Update!

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 authorized a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Open Season until Jan. 1, 2024. Retired Soldiers in receipt of retired pay not enrolled in SBP as of Dec. 22, 2022, are authorized to enroll in SBP coverage during this open season. This includes those that terminated coverage prior to Dec. 22, 2022. Those enrolled in SBP as of Dec. 22, 2022 can discontinue SBP coverage during this open season. **Get the facts!** SBP/RCSBP Open Season Fact Sheets, and necessary forms and procedures: <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/sbp/SBP-Open-Season-NDAA2023/> <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/survivor-benefit-plan>

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO ENROLL IN SBP!

- 1) If, after consulting with an Army Financial Counselor, you decide that SBP is part of your family's financial security plan, contact your RSO to help with the next steps.
- 2) Complete and submit the Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) of your desired SBP coverage. The LOI can be found at <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/sbp/SBP-Open-Season-NDAA2023/> or <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/survivor-benefit-plan>. You can submit the LOI using the askDFAS tool. Choose the category "Retired Pay Form Submission" and subcategory "SBP Open Season Letter of Intent".
- 3) Based on the LOI you submit, DFAS will provide an estimate of the one-time buy-in premium along with your monthly premiums going forward.
- 4) If you decide after receiving the estimate that you want to enroll in SBP, complete and submit the Enrollment Form using the askDFAS tool. Choose the category "Retired Pay Form Submission" and subcategory "SBP Open Season Enrollment". The enrollment form can be found at <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/sbp/SBP-Open-SeasonNDAA2023/> or <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/survivor-benefit-plan>. You will need to let DFAS know how you intend to pay the one-time buy-in premium on the enrollment form.
- 5) DFAS will confirm enrollment and provide instructions on how to pay the one-time buy-in premium.

Introducing...
THE HOME DEPOT
MORE APPLIANCES, EVEN MORE BENEFITS!

The Home Depot is partnering with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) to launch its tax-free offering of major appliances to military shoppers. All active-duty service members, dependents, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and retirees, and honorably discharged veterans who have confirmed eligibility at [ShopMyExchange.com](https://www.shopmyexchange.com) can make tax-free online purchases from the Exchange through this program. Major appliances, such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, ovens, microwaves and more will be available for purchase through The Home Depot's branded online page at [ShopMyExchange.com](https://www.shopmyexchange.com). Major appliance showrooms from The Home Depot are also launching at five post exchanges and base exchanges, including Fort Moore, GA, Fort Cavazos, TX, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, TX, Dyess AFB, TX and Fort Sill, OK. The Home Depot and the Exchange plan to roll out more than 60 Home Depot appliance showrooms across the continental United States.

AMVETS & Fort Meade have partnered to give back!

AMVETS National Service Foundation provides support to Veterans through service programs as well as providing community and youth-oriented programs designed to promote unity and patriotism. Located in communities throughout the country, AMVETS Thrift Stores offer quality used clothing, household goods, toys, and furniture at reasonable prices. You can donate the following items and schedule a free pickup by visiting [AmvetsPickup.org](https://www.amvetspickup.org). Please be sure your donations can fit inside the box, in a bag, to reduce waist. Items needed: Men's, women's and children clothing, small appliances, electronics, jewelry, kitchenware, pots, pans, dishes, lamps, toys / games, curtains / drapes, bicycles, books, bedding, seasonal items, flat screen TVs, computers, exercise equipment.

DOCS Dental gives Fort Meade a reason to smile!

DOCS Dental is opening its newest dental facility for military members, veterans, and their families at Fort Meade in Maryland. Through their partnership with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES) Be Fit initiative, DOCS Dental will now bring their full range of services on base, creating more convenient, affordable dentistry options for military members and their families. AAFES's Be Fit initiative was created to motivate soldiers, airmen, and their families to live active and healthy lives. Because proper health care is also part of staying fit, DOCS Dental partnered with AAFES to keep military families on base healthy by focus on the oral health and medical aspects of healthy living. Their full range of dental care include: Cleanings, Digital X-rays, Endodontics, Oral surgery, Crowns and bridges, Cosmetic dentistry, Orthodontics, and Invisalign. They are located at 2799 Rose St, Fort Meade, MD 20755; can be reached at 410-988-2798

Fort Meade ID card Office**Hours of operation:****Monday through Friday****7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.****APPOINTMENT ONLY******NO WALK-INS except military Service members only from 07:30-09:00******Identification Cards/ Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System****4550 Parade Field LN****Fort Meade, MD 20755****Customer Service 301-677-3342**

To get an ID card issued to you, you will ALWAYS need 2 forms of Government or State Issued ID and one must contain a photo (Persons under the age of 18 will not need to present two forms of ID). Minimum age to obtain an ID card is 14. All forms of identification must be valid. No expired identification will be accepted when applying for an ID card. The following is a list of acceptable identification. **If you do not have two of any of these forms, you will not be able to have an ID issued to you. No exceptions.** <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

- Social Security Card
- New Veteran Administration ID Card with expiration date
- U.S. Military ID Card (Valid)
- Birth Certificate
- Driver's License (Valid) or ID card issued by a state or outlying possession of the U.S. (Must contain a photo)
- U.S. Passport (Valid)
- U.S. Coast Guard or Merchant Mariner Card
- Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Card with photo
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Original or Certified Copy of original)

****100% PERMANET DISABLED VETERAN****

Requires a letter from the VA stating service member is 100 percent disabled service connected. The letter must state whether the Disabled American Veteran (DAV) is scheduled for future examinations and that the service member is entitled to Commissary and Post Exchange privileges. A DD Form 214, which states honorable discharged, social security card and one picture form of government or state issued ID (SEE ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID are required to receive an ID card @ <https://www.cac.mil/>)

Protect your Identity!

Identity theft affects millions of people each year and can cause serious harm. Protect yourself by securing your personal information, understanding the threat of identity theft, and exercising caution. Here are 10 things you can start doing now to protect yourself and your loved ones from identity theft: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/blog/31March2023_10-Ways-to-Protect-Your-Personal-Information

Life-changing event?

Keep DFAS informed! Moved? Don't send us your new address...update DFAS! We do not maintain mailing address or email information at our location. You can also call DFAS customer service at (800) 321-1080. Ensuring your retired pay comes to you accurately and on time is our primary goal at DFAS. To do this we need your help to keep your account up to date. As a Retired Soldier, the sooner you alert DFA to any change that might affect your pay, the timelier and more accurate your pay will be. Keeping your account updated includes making sure your mailing address, email address, banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and your beneficiary choices are current. The easiest way to keep your account updated is to use myPay. If you're not using myPay, it's easy to get started with the step-by-step guide at: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredMilitary/manage/mypay/>.

American Legion Post 276

Is open to veterans and active-duty service members at 8068 Quarterfield Road in Severn. Breakfast is served on the fourth Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. Specialty dinners are served the third Friday of the month from 5-7 p.m. Dinner may be purchased at 6 p.m. on Fridays and the fourth Sunday of every month. Happy Hour is Monday through Friday from 4-7 p.m. Pizza is available at any time. For information, call 410-969-8028 or visit <https://americanlegionpost276.org/>



FORT MEADE COMMUNITY**NEWS & EVENTS.****A-Z Come Play with Me**

Playgroup is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (except noted holidays).

Location: 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

Join us for a short story time, bonding, crafts, and socialization.

Interactive activities designed to assist parents in learning developmentally appropriate play techniques to help children between 18 months - 4 years improve their social, cognitive, and motor skills.

Please call [+1\(301\)677-4118](tel:+1(301)677-4118) to register for each session. Space is limited.

Education Center Information

The Fort Meade Education Center is closed the first Wednesday of every month from 7:30-11 a.m. due to staff training. The center will reopen after 11 a.m. for full counseling services. For additional information, call 301-677-6421.

Financial, Job Readiness

Joint Services offers workshops and briefings by Army Community Service at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave., and the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center at 2212 Chisholm Ave., unless otherwise noted. The free classes are open to active-duty service members and family members, DOD civilian employees and retirees. Registration is required for each class. Phone # 301-677-5590

Single Parent Support Group**Nov 2, 2023, 12:30 pm - 2 pm**

Are you a single parent? Do you need support from other single parents?

Non-Judgmental Support, improved skills to cope with challenges, reduce stress, and enhance self care.

- Support Group geared for single parents* and their children
- Coping Skills
- Parenting Challenges
- Other resources are available

*Spouses geographically separated also welcome. Registration required.

For more information please call Family Advocacy Program [+1\(301\)677-4118](tel:+1(301)677-4118) or Parent Support Coordinators [+1\(301\)677-3617](tel:+1(301)677-3617) or [+1\(301\)677-7823](tel:+1(301)677-7823)

Wing Night**Nov 2, 2023, 4 pm - 8 pm**

Join us every Thursday, 4-8 p.m. at Club Meade's Brass Lounge for Wing Night!

\$1 a wing, dine in only.

Carry out: 10 wings for \$11.95, 15 wings \$17.95, 20 wings \$21.95.

Call [+1\(301\)677-6969](tel:+1(301)677-6969) for more information.

Coffee & Chat**Nov 9, 2023, 1 pm - 2 pm**

Army Community Service - Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group

EFMP Families come join us. This is a non-disability specific in person support group offered to EFMP Families. This support group is a place to connect with other EFMP Families, learn about resources and share tips and tools that help others.

When: *2nd Thursday of the Month

Where: Starbucks Ridgeview Shopping Center

2637 Annapolis Rd., Hanover, MD 21076

Time: 1-2 p.m.

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When: *4th Thursday of the Month

Where: Starbucks Ridgeview Shopping Center

2637 Annapolis Rd., Hanover, MD 21076

Time: 6-7 p.m.

To register, call [+1\(301\)677-4779](tel:+1(301)677-4779) or [+1\(301\)677-5590](tel:+1(301)677-5590)

HANDY NUMBERS

ACS/AER (301) 677-5590
CAMP MEADE RV PARK (301) 677-6196
CASUALTY REPORTING (301) 677-2206
COMMISSARY (301) 677-7463
HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISOR (301) 677-8982
ID CARDS (301) 677-3342
LEGAL ASSISTANCE (301) 677-9536
KIMBROUGH MED CLINIC (301) 677-8392
POST EXCHANGE (301) 677-7695
RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICER (301) 677-9600/9603
VISITORS CONTROL CTR (301) 677-1064

