

Retiree Council Agenda

1 March 2025

Welcome	COL(R) Simmons	0900-0905
Invocation	COL(R) Sim'mons	0905-0910
Pledge	SGM(R)Gilbert	0910-0915
Fort Meade Update	Garrison	0915-0935
Kimbrough Update	KACC	0935-0955
The Exchange/PX	Siapo Hesson	0955-1005
Commissary News	Elijah Groover	1005-1015
RSO Update	Christine Hopke	1015-1030
Old Business	COL(R) Simmons	1030-1040
New Business	COL(R) Simmons	1040-1055
Remarks	SGM(R) Gilbert	1055-1105
Closing Remarks	COL(R) Simmons	1105-1115

Fort George G Meade Retiree Council

Meeting Minutes

7 December 2024

Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

The one hundred seventy fourth (174th) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held in accordance with AR 600-8-7 in the ID Card building, room 201.

Formal Introductions:

COL (Ret) Jean Simmons: Council President.

COL Yolanda Gore: Garrison Commander

CSM Richard Moore: Garrison Sergeant Major

SGM (Ret) James Gilbert: Council Vice President. Congratulations to his son's selection as Brigadier General

COL(Ret) Bert Rice: Past Chairman of the Fort Meade Retiree Council

Other Attendees:

COL(Ret) Roy Harris

COL (Ret) Joy Napper

LTC(Ret) Peter Wood

SGM (Ret) Shaun Herron

MSG (Ret) Rosalind Robinson-Ambrose

1SG(Ret) James West (Voting Member)

Dr. Denise Richardson

SFC (Ret) Christine Lumley

SSG (Ret) Walter Hollman

SFC(Ret) Chris Wisener

Ms. Christine Hopke

Mr. Chad Jones

Ms. Siapo Hesson

Mr. Elijah Groover

Invocation: COL (Ret) Jean Simmons

Pledge of Allegiance: All Membership

- I. September Minutes approved with corrections.

II. Key Updates:

Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center

A. Dr. Denise Richardson, Chief Medical Operations:

1. Closures: 18 December closing at 1400, 25 December & 1 January 2025
2. Inclement Weather Notifications: updating operating status with Garrison via Facebook and other social media outlets
3. Pharmacy: to activate new prescriptions, **text:** 833-224-5456, please allow 2 to 4 hours for processing. Busiest times are 1100-1630 & Friday afternoons (especially during Holidays)
4. Primary Care: Video Virtual Appointments available; it will require access to the patient portal; new platform entitled, "Converge" for easier access. Every facility in the NCR will engage in this new process. Literature requested by PAO to market across the group. Group requested assistance with DS Logon to establish accounts. It was mentioned that DINFOS could offer video assistance to help with marketing.
5. Flu and Covid Shots are available via Allergy & Immunizations clinic.
6. MHS Genesis Password Concerns: COL Harris stated assistance needed to decrease frequency of password changes.

Garrison Commander

B. COL Yolanda Gore:

1. Responded to request for transportation assistance for patients. The Crofton Connector makes stops at the VA Clinic and runs stops every half hour. Information to be shared with Internal Medicine Clinic Nurse Case Manager. VA representative needed to serve on the retiree council to provide feedback for this service.
2. Backlog of Appointments at KACC: KACC doesn't have an independent call center. CMO (Dr. Richardson) stated to reach out to her if appointments are not readily available.
3. T Mobile coming in February
4. Gate Hours: 24/7hour gate will be the Reece Gate (Early January/Late February). Other gates will shift hours (Mapes: open for exit traffic)
5. Security Guards: 7 vacancies with 17 RPAs, (security clearance issues remain a problem).

6. Army Post App: member encouraged to add app to phones. Gate hours available within app along with other important updates. Army Post App demonstration pending for next retiree council meeting.
7. Garrison Deer Population: activity planned in January to control excess population.

C. Fort Meade Exchange (Ms. Siapo Hesson)

1. New Sushi Restaurant open.
2. Hours: 0800-2000
3. Gift Cards can be purchased at Self-Checkout
4. Gas Station: heating issue to be addressed. Personnel leave cars parked at Gas pumps while shopping. Issue taken for action.

D. Fort Meade Commissary (Elijah Groover)

1. Fresh Fish contract pending.
2. Positive Thanksgiving Sales. Closed Christmas. Open New Years Day until 7pm
3. Pilot to permit DoD civilian commissary shopping: occurring at various bases.
4. Seasonal Hours pending.
5. College students welcome as baggers over the holidays.
6. Request made for assistance with self-check-out bags and wiping scanner windows.
7. The seasonal wafer cookies egg nog and candy cane flavors are hard to locate. Maybe out of stock.

III. Retiree Appreciation Day (Christine Hopke)

1. Huge Success!!! Many thanks to the Retiree Council for assistance.
2. Over 500 attendees and 40 Vendors.
3. Military Personnel Division: assisted with tables and chairs
4. AAFES: Gift prizes appreciated (gift cards and raffles)
5. Commissary: sheet cake disappeared in minutes!
6. Raffles provided in the afternoon
7. Complete After-Action Report and return to Ms. Hopke. Form to be sent electronically.
8. Sustains
 - a. Flu Shots and Covid Shots provided
 - b. Photo Booth Huge Hit
 - c. Lunch lines less congested than previous years: mobility challenged patients permitted first

- d. Maintain Speakers in Ballroom separate from vendor area.
 - e. Sustain breakfast in the rear.
 - f. Return service dogs (huge success)
 - g. Name Badges provided.
 - h. Many thanks to Garrison PAO! Excellent Marketing and Newsletter!
 - i. Dental Information Table helpful: oral exams provided
9. Improves
- a. Consider one way for entry and exit
 - b. Send forms for improvements (what do you want to see, who do you want to be there) to Ms. Hopke.
 - c. Speakers targeted for useful information for retirees and dependents
 - d. Designate an area (room) for patient emergencies.
10. Next RAD, 20th October 2025. **50th Anniversary!!**
11. ID Cards: Kiosk forthcoming for ID Card renewals in the future

New Business

- 1. Secretary needed. Volunteer available.
- 2. COL Bert Rice: please add microphone for next meeting to assist auditory for zoom participants.
- 3. Consider another conference room with microphone support.
- 4. Kimbrough Safety: Dead limbs falling on parked cars in the lot due to overgrown trees. Mr. West to send pictures via email to COL Gore. Work request submitted; encouraged to re-submit work request.
- 5. USO requested Key Personnel Call Roster for soldiers arriving after duty hours.

Closing remarks from COL (Ret) Dr. Jean Simmons

*Next meeting is **Saturday, 1 March 2025 at 0900**. It will be held in the ID card building (formerly the 1st Army building) adjacent to the parade field flagpole, room 201.*

Respectfully Submitted,
COL(Ret) Joy Napper

Approved,

COL (Ret) Dr. Jean Simmons