



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE AND AFRICA  
UNIT 29351  
APO AE 09014-9351

AEPE

5 Oct 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

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

1. The minutes of the Army in Europe Retired Soldiers Council meeting of August 24, 2021 have been reviewed and approved.
2. The point of contact for this memorandum is LTC (Ret) David Fulton, President, Army in Europe Retired Soldiers Council at [+49] (611-143-537-9001) or email [david.v.fulton.civ@mail.mil](mailto:david.v.fulton.civ@mail.mil).

Encl

  
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Colonel, GS  
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EA Member, European Tri-Component Retiree Council  
EA Member, Army in Europe Retired Soldier Council



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

AEPE-AERSC

5 October 2021

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

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

1. The 159th meeting of the Army in Europe Retired Soldier Council (AERSC) convened at 0905 on 24 August in the G1 Conference Room with two members joining via phone bridge. The first meeting of the Council was 29 August 1980.

2. The following persons were present in-person, via MS Teams or via phone bridge:

a. Members:

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

b. Advisory Members

COL LaCher Campbell	USAREUR-AF G1
Mr. Mark Rado	Deputy G1
Ms. Laura Waid	MWR Program Analyst
Mr. Damon Wilford	IMCOM-Europe, MPD

c. Visitors

Mr. John Tomassi	USAREUR-AF PAO
Mr. James Clawson	G1 Postal Team
Ms. Lisa Hicks	USAG Wiesbaden CAO/RSO
CW4 (Ret) Robert Pierce	USAG Wiesbaden Retired Soldier Council

3. Opening Remarks: (COL Mentell). COL Mentell welcomed the members of the Council and had the Council review the agenda.

4. Public Affairs Update (Mr. Tomassi)

## AEAGA-AERSC

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a. Current Operations: The US Air Force has the lead in evacuation and re-settlement of the refugees from Afghanistan. Naval Station Sigonella has received some refugees. Ramstein has about 7500 and may have the capability for 12000.

b. Pfizer vaccine has been approved by FDA and will become mandatory for Soldiers in the near future. The theater is 76% completely vaccinated. No guidance has yet been issued regarding mandatory vaccines for Department of Army Civilians.

c. DoD has formally reversed some European Infrastructure Commission (EIC) announcements. As a result, six U.S. facilities previously identified for return to host nations are no longer programmed for return to host nation.

d. The 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) and the 56th Artillery Command will stand-up during the month of September and be located in Wiesbaden on Mainz Kastel Station.

#### 5. G1 Update (COL Campbell/Mr. Rado)

a. COL Campbell introduced herself to the Council as the new USAREUR-AF G1 and provided a brief overview of her professional background and experience.

b. COL Mentell provided a quick brief to COL Campbell on the purpose and mission of the Army in Europe Retired Soldier Council.

c. Mr. Rado introduced himself. He has been the Deputy G1 for almost two years. During this time, he has been significantly involved in the G1's efforts to plan for and transition US Army Europe to US Army Europe and Africa.

d. V Corps will have a headquarters element in Posnan, Poland. This headquarters will have both rotational and permanently assigned forces. Elements in USAREUR-AF such as 2CR and 41<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery will be aligned under V Corps.

#### 6. IMCOM-E Update (Mr. Wilford)

a. There have been a number of changes in personnel and leaders within IMCOM-Europe. One of these changes is the Retirement Services Officer (RSO) position. Ms. Rita Hewitt will become the RSO for IMCOM-Europe. She is currently serving at Aberdeen Proving Grounds and IMCOM-E hopes to have her on board in about 60 days.

b. Planning is ongoing in all garrisons for in-person Retiree Appreciation Days. The HQDA G1 RSO, Mr. Mark Overberg, intends to support, in-person or virtually, all garrison RADs to include the Army in Europe RAD.

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DATE	GARRISON	LOCATION
14 Oct 21	USAG Rheinland-Pfalz	Ramstein Officers Club 0800-1500
15 Oct 21	USAG Benelux-Brunssum	Brunssum MWR Facility, The Hub, Bldg 5 0900-1400
16 Oct 21	USAG Benelux-SHAPE	SHAPE Healthcare Facility, Mons, Bldg 401 0900-1300 Registration Open at 0830
19 Oct 21	USAG Bavaria	Tower View Conference Center, BLD 209 0900 - Registration Open
21 Oct 21	USAG Ansbach	Physical Fitness Center on Katterbach Airfield 0800 – Registration Opens
22 Oct 21	USAG Stuttgart	Panzer Community Center (Old Firehouse) 0900-1400
26 Oct 21	USAG Italy	Golden Lion Conference Center, Bldg 311 0900-1300
30 Oct 21	Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Wiesbaden	USAREUR Mission Command Center, Bldg 1000 0800-1500

c. The Federal Benefit Unit (FBU) from Frankfurt and Rome will participate in select RADs. IMCOM-E is in contact with the Frankfurt FBU to determine if they can cover the Benelux RADs (Note: The Dublin FBU is unable to support the Benelux RADs this year).

d. There have been questions about DFAS' participation in the RADs. Both IMCOM-E and USAREUR-AF G1 are working to ensure DFAS is available to support, virtually or in-person. In the absence of a DFAS representative, Garrison RSO's have access to programs that will allow them to assist Retired Soldiers and Annuitants to make pay related changes.

e. The IMCOM-E Retiree Bulletin was distributed in June. COL Mentell reminded Mr. Wilford that the Council would appreciate the ability to help review the bulletin in advance of publication.

f. The IMCOM-E RSO has completed a review of generic RSO email addresses and will finalize the generic emails this week.

7. 2021 Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day (AE RAD) hosted by USAG Wiesbaden Preparations (Ms. Hicks/CW4 Pierce)

a. Healthcare Round Table: Specific participants from Regional Health Command Europe is still being determined.

b. Keynote Speaker: Ms. Hicks will contact LTC Fulton reference the keynote speaker.

c. The AE RAD TASKORD is with USAG-WI Garrison S3/5/7 for publication.



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8. Army in Europe and Africa Postal Operations Update (Mr. Clawson). An update to Postal Regulations was published last month. While this is the first update to postal regulations in a long time, there were no changes made regarding postal services for either active duty or retired soldiers. The update primarily focused on updating procedures from manual to automated processes.

9. Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council (CSARSC) Preparations (COL Mentell)

a. The U.S. Army Europe and Africa representative to the CSARSC, COL Karl Goetzke, has one more year to serve on his 4 year tenure to this Council. Therefore, there is no requirement for the Army in Europe and Africa to nominate a replacement for our representative this year.

b. Garrisons should be canvassing their Retiree population for issues that may require CSARSC attention and possible resolution. Any issues identified should be sent through the local Garrison chain of command to the IMCOM-E RSO, and then, only after the IMCOM-E RSO determines they are unable to address the issue at their level, to USAREUR-AF G1 and the AERSC for further support.

c. AERSC Council Members will discuss all CSARSC issues elevated to the USAREUR-AF G1 at the October AERSC meeting.

10. Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council Update (COL Goetzke)

a. Casualty Assistance Officers (CAO): There is currently an ongoing pilot program to train and use Retired Soldiers as CAOs in the Fort Stewart area. If the pilot program is considered a success, HQDA G1 RSO will consider an expansion of the program to other areas.

b. There continues to be a delay in establishing an agreement between HQDA G1 and DMDC that will permit HQDA G1 to access Retired Soldier contact information for the purpose of keeping Retired Soldiers and their Families informed on matters that affect their QOL. HQDA G1, along with the CSARSC, remain committed to resolving this impasse.

c. Soldier for Life Website at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement> continues to add more items to the Retired Soldier Toolkit.

d. DFAS and Gray Area Reservists: Currently, DFAS has no visibility of Gray Area Reservists until it is time to begin their retirement pay. There is an ongoing project within DFAS to build a shell in "MyPay" intended to fix this problem.

11. United States Africa Command Overview (COL Goetzke). COL Goetzke provided the Council an overview of AFRICOM's operations and the challenges and successes

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AFRICOM is experiencing in access, influence, security and resourcing throughout their area of responsibility.

12. Liaison Responsibilities and Standards (COL Mentell). As a result of the inactivation of the Heidelberg Retiree Council, the AERSC will no longer list the Heidelberg Council as a council falling under the responsibility of USAG-RP. The AERSC is extremely appreciative of the expertise and dedicated work the Heidelberg Council, under the leadership of Council President LTC (Ret) Larry Applebaum, has provided in support of Retirees and their Families residing in the Heidelberg area.

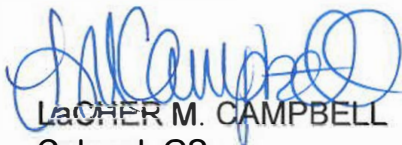
13. Open Discussion (All)

a. In Italy, the Vicenza Retiree Council is adding a representative from Camp Darby to their council.

b. Casualty Assistance Officer Pilot Program: The Council confirmed that a casualty assistance officer is authorized for the Families of Retired Soldiers if requested and resources exist to support. The Council remains interested in the lessons learned coming out of the CONUS casualty assistance pilot program to see what tools can possible be incorporated here in Europe to improve casualty assistance support to those Retired Soldier Families requesting CAO support.

14. Next Meeting will be on 29 October in conjunction with the AE RAD on 30 October.

15. Meeting was adjourned at 1445.



LACHER M. CAMPBELL  
Colonel, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff G1



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President, AERSC