



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE AND AFRICA
OPC 467 Box 99
APO AE 09005-9997

AEPE

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army Europe and Africa Retired Soldier Council Meeting

1. The report of the Army Europe and Africa Retired Soldier Council (AEA RSC) on the subject, on 22 May 2025, has been reviewed and approved.
2. The point of contact for this memorandum is LTC (Retired) David V. Fulton, President, AEA RSC, at +49 (611) 143-537-9001 or email david.v.fulton.civ@army.mil.

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DWAYNE L. WADE
COL, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff, G1

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EA Garrison Retirement Services Officer

EA Co-Chair, Chief of Staff, Army, Retired Soldier Council

EA Board Member, European Tri-Component Retiree Council

EA Member, Army Europe and Africa Retired Soldier Council



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AEPE-RSC

22 May 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Africa,
ATTN: AECG, OPC 467 Box 99, APO AE 09005-9997

SUBJECT: Minutes of the US Army Europe and Africa Retired Soldier Council Meeting

1. The 174th meeting of the US Army Europe and Africa Retired Soldier Council (AEA RSC) convened at 0900 on 22 May 2025 in the G1 Conference Room. The first meeting of the Council was on 29 August 1980.

2. The following persons were present in person or via Webex:

a. Members:

LTC (Ret) David V. Fulton	President
CW3 (Ret) Sandra K. Simpson	Secretary
COL (Ret) Robert A. Mentell	Member
COL (Ret) Mark A. Rado	Member
LTC (Ret) William K. Bergman	Member
LTC (Ret) David E. Ott	Member
LTC (Ret) Jerimiah A. Wildermuth	Member
LTC (Ret) James G. Yentz	Member
SFC (Ret) Filberto H. Clarke	Member

b. Advisory Members:

COL Dwayne L. Wade	DCoS, G-1, USAREUR-AF
Ms. Laura R. Waid	Staff Representative, ODCoS, G1, USAREUR-AF
Mr. Jerryn D. McCarroll	Region Retirement Services Officer IMCOM-Europe

c. Associate Members:

CDR (USN, Ret) Christopher L. Bowen	Member, SECNAV Retiree Council
Maj (USAF, Ret) Jhames Illanez	Member, DAF Retiree Council

d. Emeritus Members:

SGM (Ret) David B. Stewart	Former Member, USAREUR-AF Retired Soldier Council
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3. The President welcomed LTC (Ret) Yentz and MAJ (USAF, Ret) Illanez as new Council members.

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4. Opening Remarks by LTC (Ret) Fulton: The President covered "Since We Last Met" topics:

a. The minutes of the 6 March 2025 AEA RSC meeting were completed, approved, and disseminated.

b. The in-bound chief of the Frankfurt Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) is engaged with IMCOM-E representatives on issues and solutions.

c. The Chief of Staff of the Army Retired Soldier Council (CSARSC) met 27 April through 2 May 2025 at HQDA.

e. COL (Ret) Rado was quoted in the most recent issues of Army Echoes: "The Army is a TEAM of TEAMS; we were proud to be part of that TEAM for our entire career; stay connected with the TEAM after your retirement too. We are all swimming in the same "retirement" pool together; always best to swim with a buddy (or buddies)."

5. G-1 Update by COL Wade:

a. The command continues to operate in a dynamic environment. The current main effort is the Shaping of the Civilian Work Force. To date, the command has been able to divest itself of spaces, not faces. As the Deferred Resignation Program starts to kick in, there will be multiple ripple effects. The DoD Hiring Freeze is still in effect until at least 15 July 2025 and one of the current issues is whether the strength of an organization will factor into hiring exemption approvals or denials. With the possible change of civilian retirement payments to a "high-5" years of service calculation instead of what is currently a "high-3" calculation, the G1 is anticipating that this change may accelerate some to return to CONUS earlier or to retire earlier.

b. A second major effort is the Army Transformation Initiative announced recently by the CSA, GEN George. Retirees are encouraged to stay abreast of these initiatives and how they may impact their military communities by following the USAREUR-AF homepage at: <https://www.europeafrica.army.mil/>

c. COL Wade announced that he will be leaving this summer with his replacement due on-board NLT 15 July 2025.

6. IMCOM-E Update by Mr. McCarroll:

a. The following changes need to be made to the list of the Army Europe and Africa Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) as published in the Army Echoes.

(1) USAG Rheinland-Pfalz will not conduct its garrison RAD on 9 October 2025

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as the venue for the RAD is not available on that date. The garrison has not yet announced a new date.

(2) USAG Poland will conduct its RAD on 4 November 2025.

(3) USAG Wiesbaden will host the Army Europe and Africa RAD on 15 November 2025.

NOTE: Because of the rescheduling, Defense Finance Accounting Services and DA Retirement Services Office (RSO) representatives will not be present in person at these three RAD. DFAS support will continue to be available virtually at these RADs.

(4) USAG Italy will conduct its RAD on 24 October 2025.

b. USAG Black Sea does not yet have an RSO.

7. CSARSC Update by COL (Ret) Rado:

a. The out-briefing to the CSA is tentatively scheduled for 13 June 2025. Until that time, the CSARSC recommendations are not releasable.

b. The council considered 13 issues. USAREUR-AF submitted five of those issues:

(1) Improving Military Retiree Access to Veterans Affairs Care in Germany

(2) Augmented Support by Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) to Survivors of Retired Soldiers

(3) TRICARE for Life Support for Retirees >65 Years Old Awaiting MEDICARE Registration Due to No Fault of their Own

(4) Communication with Retired Soldiers and Annuitants

(5) Simplifying the System of Authentication and Access to U.S. Government Websites

c. There is a proposal for Veterans Affairs / Defense Health Agency collaboration at select Military Treatment Facilities but, at present, Japan is the only location.

d. HQDA recently made some changes to its Soldier for Life (SFL) structure. In addition to Army Echoes, social media and website postings remain the primary means for HQDA and other organizations to push information to Retired Soldiers and Annuitants. Retirees and Annuitants are encouraged to explore the updated SFL homepage at: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/>

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e. During recent discussions with the Frankfurt Federal Benefits Unit, it was indicated that the FBU is looking at ways to facilitate expanding the MEDICARE application window to 90-120 days prior to MEDICARE eligibility (age 65). The current application window begins at 90 days prior to one's 65th birthday. However, this 90-day window has proven to be too short of time for the FBU to complete the application process.

f. The Arlington National Cemetery Caisson Platoon has resumed limited operations in support of burials at the cemetery.

g. It was highlighted at the CSARSC meeting that Retired Soldiers are eligible for Army Emergency Relief (AER) support. Retirees experiencing unforeseen financial challenges may want to reach out to AER for advisement and potential support.

8. Discussion Topics:

a. This year's Veterans Day observances also serve to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This will also bring an end to the nation's "Vietnam War Commemoration Program," which has served to unite Americans in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their Families for their service and sacrifice.
<https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/>

b. The Council urges Retired Soldiers and their Families to participate in the garrison sessions of the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) to present issues and concerns of the Retired Soldier Community and to serve on garrison evaluation panels to ensure Retiree and Survivor concerns are understood and considered.

c. Local research is on-going to determine if a method exists to access My Army Post app through a web-based version or emulator on a laptop for those who do not have a smartphone or access to Google Play or the Apple App Store.

d. CDR (USN, Ret) Bowen announced that the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council will meet in August 2025 in Arlington, VA, and that he will continue to represent retired Sailors and retired Marines residing in Europe.

e. Maj (USAF, Ret) Illanez announced that the Department of the Air Force Retiree Council plans to meet this fall, but no firm dates have been set. He will represent retired Airmen and retired Guardians residing in Europe.

9. Closing Remarks by LTC (Ret) Fulton: The President covered "The Way Ahead" topics:

a. The Army will celebrate its 250th Birthday on 14 June 2025.

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b. The Association of the US Army (AUSA) will host LANDEURO in Wiesbaden 16-17 July 2025.

c. CSARSC will conduct a telephonic meeting on 22 July 2025. COL (Ret) Rado will represent USAREUR-AF.

d. The next AEA RSC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 21 August 2025.

10. President adjourned the meeting at 1200 hours.

11. For the record:

a. AEA RSC Volunteer Hours: During the first four months of CY 2025, AEA RSC members reported in the Volunteer Management Information System over 360 volunteer hours.

b. AEA RSC Liaison Performance: During the first four months of CY 2025, AEA RSC members reported the timely accomplishment of over 86% of their liaison goals.

David Fulton

DAVID V. FULTON
LTC, USA (Retired)
President