COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting 3 September 2026 in the Regimental Room at Silver Wings Golf Club, Fort Rucker, AL.

MEMBERS (Army Retirees, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL(R) Paul English
LTC(R) Ray Collins
CW5(R) Ronald Kaita
CW5(R) Randy Godfrey
CSM(R) Jerry Seimer
1SG(R) Johnny Davis
CSM(R) Mike Sutterfield
LTC(R) Phillip Jenison
CW5(R) Scotty Johnson
CW4(R) Chester Davis ROPES
SGM(R) Deborah Seimer
SFC(R) Rickey Jones

ABSENT

CSM(R) George Evans
AM1(AW)(R) John Logsdon

ADVISORS PRESENT

LTC Ryan Allred, LAHC
Mr. Derrick Woods, DeCA
Mr. Gabriel Espada, AAFES
SGM Garret Cleland, LAHC
Ms. Shannon Burke, DFMWR
Mr. Orlando King, RSO

VISITORS/GUESTS

Mrs. Mary Jane Collins
LTC(R) Claudia Wigglesworth

1. COL(R) English called the meeting to order at 1130 and said we will be relooking at our Charter as it is several years old and needs to be updated.

2. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

3. Members were reminded to submit a written summary of their comments immediately after the meeting to SGM(R) Seimer to be recorded in the Council Minutes.

4. Old Business: CSM Castro provided feedback via email reference the logging on Ft Rucker. The logging around Lowe Field is 84 percent complete and the contractor has until 30 September to finish this action. Upon completion the areas will turn back over to Natural Resources. They will enact another contract to spray herbicide to kill residual growth in August 2027 and then burn the area in the October 2027 timeframe. Once the aforementioned actions are completed Loblolly Pine seedlings (trees) will be planted

in December 2027-January 2028. Additionally, herbicide was sprayed last week at clearcuts in Training Area (TA)19E (around the ASP), TA13, and TA29 (adjacent to Hooper). These areas will be burned in October 2026 timeframe and planted in December 2026-January 2027 with either containerized Loblolly or Longleaf Pine. A new harvest contract was awarded to Southern Timber to conduct regeneration cuts, select cuts, and row thinning in TAs 1, 17, and 18, dates are to be determined. All clearcuts around airfields were at the request of G3 Air according to glideslope criteria for aircraft, otherwise there would not be cutting around airfields.

Reference the question about parking lot striping between buildings 904 and 415, the restriping is part of the Dilly Branch Road resurfacing project and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2026. Also, please use ICE to compliment or make complaints as all comments are reviewed by the Garrison Command team.

5. New Business: None.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Public Affairs: CW5(R) Johnson said several events are going on and to check the cities social media sites.

b. Legislative Affairs: LTC(R) Collins said even with the short-term Continuing Resolution the probability of a shutdown looms. The “Shutdown Fairness Act” was never passed and will hurt our junior service members most. The last time a funding bill was in place and approved on time was 1996.

c. Health Care: 1SG(R) Davis said for those who use Lyster for health care to read emails from them closely as they may be sending information about an upcoming appointment or a change in your PC. Additionally, they have Alcohol and Drug Addiction treatment and tele-health for persons who are empaneled to Lyster.

d. Veterans Affairs (VA): SGM(R) Seimer reported on behalf of CSM(R) Evans a Patriot Day Memorial Ceremony will begin on 11 September, 0730 at the Wall of Freedom, Johnny Henderson Family Park, Enterprise. The Take Back the Day Tribute Concert is 11 September, 1800, Trussville, AL. On 16 September, 1000-1400 is a Huntsville Resource and Job Fair at 140 Research Blvd, Madison, AL.

e. Retiree Volunteer Support: CW5(R) Godfrey said the Volunteer of the Quarter Recognition Ceremony is 1000, 18 November at The Landing with submissions due 23 October. The Ozark Military Affairs Coalition meeting is 16 October, 0830 at the Holman House. Please utilize VMIS or provide the DA Form 4713 for volunteer hours so he can input the hours to the system.

f. The Landing: No report.

g. Commissary: SFC(R) Jones said approximately 18 commissaries had refrigeration disruptions linked to an online system getting shut off over night with all frozen food spoiled. No official explanation has been given for the cluster of outages.

h. Exchange: SFC(R) Jones stated Mr. Tom Shull retired as the longest-serving director in AAFES' history and the first civilian to serve in that position. During his 14-year tenure, he fought to extend the online exchange benefit to all honorably discharged veterans; reduced AAFES debt from $2.4 billion to zero; increased customer satisfaction to 95 percent and fought off efforts to privatize or consolidate military stores. "His greatest legacy was expanding the benefit to a larger veteran group", said Steve Rossetti, president of the American Logistics Association, expanding the AAFES' customer base from 12 million to 30 million through expanded online shopping to all veterans who served honorably are now able to shop online tax-free. Mr. Shull's replacement is Mr. Bingham who has worked with Mr. Shull for 14 years, is a retired Army officer, and was most recently deputy director and chief financial officer.

i. Silver Wings Golf Course: CSM(R) Seimer said the next Golf Course Council is 10 September. Divots will be closed September 22-24 to install a new air conditioning unit and during this time they will have a "Food Truck" available. Every Tuesday afternoon continues to be the Junior League play and every Wednesday is Range Night at 1700.Upcoming events include: 5 September, Labor Day Shoot-Out and 25 September, Wiregrass Sergeant Majors Association Scramble.

j. Equestrian Center: CW5(R) Kaita said they are working on a drive-through display for Christmas in November at the stables.

k. Outdoor Recreation (ODR): CW5(R) Kaita reported on 12 September there is a free Kayak Tutorial at Lake Tholocco and a free Hunting and Fishing gear Swap 0900-1300 at the ODR West Beach parking lot. Folding tables and chairs are available for rent at $15.00 or pop-up tents with a table and chair for $55.00. The Wounded Warrior Hunt is 17-19 September for more information or to volunteer call (334) 255-4305. On 17 October a trip to Adventure Quest in Montgomery is planned. Price is $125.00 with the bus leaving ODR West Beach parking lot at 0700, recommend arriving at the parking lot by 0630.

l. Bowling Alley: SGM(R) Seimer said Stars & Strikes bowling is 7 September with 50 cent games and 50 cent shoes. Grandparents Day Bowling is 13 September and Grandparents bowl for free when the grandkids' pay $2.50 for games and shoe rentals.

m. Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD): Mr. King reminded us to check-in with anyone we might know who is a Gray Area Retiree to ensure they know to contact him or come

by his office to start their retirement application. There is no system currently available to review the status of Gray Area packets. Also, for those who have a life changing event (military member or spouse of one) to come to his office to update their records and ensure they start/stop appropriate benefits. Several personnel systems are being updated and if you are unable to access your record come see him. He is working on some finale updates to the Retiree Newsletter and hopes to get it sent in the next week or so.

n. Council Members at Large:

1. LTC(R) Jenison reported a new contract is supposed to go into effect on 1 November for 26 years that would cover fuel, maintenance and Instructor Pilots. Also, it appears some new units may be coming to Ft Rucker in the next few years.

2. CW4(R) Davis said after 60 years of service, the Thrift Shop located on Ft Rucker will close. The current building is privately owned and sits on leased government land. The building owner no longer wishes to maintain their lease with the Corps of Engineers. An off-post location is being considered. The Faulkner and Newton gates are closed 4-7 September and the Ozark Visitor Control Center is closed 7 September.

7. Advisors' Comments:

a. LTC Allred introduced himself as the new Lyster Army Health Clinic Commander. His previous assignment was at Landstul, Germany and he looks forward to his time here at Ft Rucker.

b. SGM Cleland stated they expect to receive one drug dispensing machine in the next 120 days. The machine will be located in the Guard Shack in front of the main doors. This machine will be for active-duty Soldiers only but it will also help reduce the wait time inside as they will not be in-line as a primary recipient. If all goes well, they will try to obtain two more machines. Their “Training Day” has changed to the third Friday of each month, a new calendar has been posted in the Clinic, on their website and please help spread the word. The Q-Anywhere app has been updated so scan the new QR Code or download the App to your phone.

c. Mr. Woods said they have a Sidewalk Sale 17-20 September and an Operation Baby Sale 7-20 September. They did not have any issues with their refrigeration system that SFC(R) Jones previously mentioned.

d. Mr. Espada stated DoW (DoD) civilians with a valid CAC can shop tax-free at the Ft Rucker Main Exchange, gas station, and food court (excludes alcohol, tobacco, uniforms and commissary groceries; contractors excluded. These civilians are also

eligible to apply for a Military Star Card, for more information or to apply go to It Pays to Be A Star. On 4-24 September take an extra five percent off camping purchases and 11-17 September baby furniture and mattress purchases ten percent off when using the Military Star. For the Air Force Birthday on 18 September special offers include 10 cents off a gallon of gas, 15 percent off Exchange restaurant purchases and $10 off $25 concession/kiosk purchases (with coupon). The Exchange is hiring and offer excellent benefits for more information contact the Ft Rucker HRO at (334)-503-9044 Ext 211.

e. Ms. Burke said Oktober Fest is 25 September, 1630-2130 at The Landing. There is German food, Biergarten, craft venders, kid's area, DJ and live entertainment. They have "Takeoff & Taste – Dinner to Go" every Thursday in September. Each Thursday is a different menu and can serve an individual or up to a family of eight. Orders must be received by noon Wednesday by calling (334) 255-0767/1386, and meals picked up between 1500-1730 on Thursday at The Landing. On 2 October, The Landing presents "A Tasting Journey Through Italy". This is a family-style Italian feast paired with delicious wine. Cost is $60.00 per person and the event is for ages 21 and over. Doors open at 1700 with dinner at 1800. MWR no longer has a social media page so go to their website or use the "My Army Post" app.

8. COL(R) English adjourned the meeting at 1245. The next meeting is 1 October 2026, 1130 at Silver Wings, Regimental Room.

Approved via-email	Approved via-email	Prepared by
Paul English, Jr.	Micheal Sutterfield	Deborah L. Seimer
COL(R)	CSM((R)	SGM(R)
Co-Chairman	Co-Chairman	Secretary