

FORT STEWART RETIREE COUNCIL

RAD After Action Report/ Meeting Minutes

18 May 2024

Held at University of Central Florida (UCF) ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Members in Attendance

COL (R) Kin La Fate—Co-Chair
COL (R)) Salvatore Lauricella
COL (R) Kevin Milton
LTC (R)) David Craig
LTC (R)) George Frederick
LTC (R)) Karen Nigara
CW5 (R) Rob Letendre
CW5 (R) Edna Frazier

CSM (R) Dee Bobb – Co-Chair
CSM (R) Jeff Ashmen

CSM Leon Caffie
SGM (R) Debra Hill
1SG (R) Larry McDaniels
SFC (R) Karen Bell

Ft. Stewart-HAAF Command and Staff

COL Marc Austin, Fort Stewart Garrison Commander
Mr. Thomas Allmon, Director Human Resources
Mr. David Southerland, Fort Stewart/HAAF MPD Chief
Mr. Ernest Smith, Tampa RSO Staff
Ms. Julie Lovelady, Fort Stewart/HAAF Assistant Installation RSO

1. The Council Meeting was opened by Mr. Southerland. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the Semi-Annual meeting by discussing issues of concern to Retired Soldiers and how the Retired Soldiers can support the Command IAW AR 600-8-7.
2. The Council conducted a Retired Soldier Appreciation Day After Action Review with the following comments:

a. Pre-RAD Coordination:

- (1) CSM (R) Bobb commented the event flyer didn't contain the Parking Lot location for the Venue. Parking Lot H should've been posted on the flyer but was omitted due too lack of information prior to printing the event flyer. To add to the confusion, Parking lot H had barricades posted in front of the entrance area, which caused participants to seek other parking areas at a distance from the venue.
- (2) COL Austin, Mr. Allmon, and Mr. Southerland all commented that next year's hard copy mailing may be cost restricted--66K was spent this year for printing of flyers and contractors wanted more money at the last moment. Next year's solution may be utilization of Eventbrite and e-mails sent early and often since we have next year's

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location at UCF locked down. Council members suggested utilizing local Veterans Councils to distribute flyers and information in order to cut costs. It was agreed that the way we will do distribution in the future will need to be different than the past and we need to develop a plan to get to the new way of doing this efficiently and cost effectively.

- (3) CSM(R) Ashmen indicated that there are a lot of Veterans in the Veterans Councils and we could work to expand target audience.
- (4) Coordination for use of the electronic marque should list our event and parking garage.
- (5) Check-in: Add QR code as a means for easy check-in and accountability—Plus the QR code can provide participants with current conference information.
- (6) Coordinate for a local hearing impaired person to be on hand to support the event (Should be Free of Charge provide by the City of Orlando).
- (7) Reduce briefing times from 30 minute to 10 or 15 minutes.
- (8) Eliminate or change Attorney General’s briefing on Elderly Scams—the briefer didn’t have their slide and was ill prepared to brief the audience.
- (9) Add a booth for Hospice and DFAS.
- (10) Add 10-15 minute briefing on Surviving Spouses—Speaker Mrs. Pat Green.
- (11) MOAA Legislative briefer needs to be changed out to a different organization.
- (12) Invite News Networks—Pre-coordination with Legal and UCF for approval.

b. RAD Facilities

1. Student Union Conference Center was outstanding and supported our venue well.
2. Coffee and refreshment were provided adequately for the cost we paid (\$1650)—In short, we never ran low on refreshments.
3. CSM (R) Bobb said we had “clickers” to count the number of attendees. This would be helpful in the future.
4. Council members said there was a need for better signage on the campus directing attendees to the event and parking areas.
5. American Legion provided a nice private area for our meeting and great meal for \$10.
6. It was suggested that campus maps be inserted into the programs next year to include facilities. It would also be helpful to have a “map” of the vendor display area (posted on a briefing side).

c. Vendors and execution of RAD

1. Vendors need to cover their tables and refrain from interacting with attendees until after the speakers are completed. It was commented that many of the attendees come for the vendors and the “goodies” offered not for long speeches.
2. Last year, COL (R) Milton suggested that static displays of military equipment and a “meet Your Army” type of event would be of interest and would make the attendees feel appreciated and engaged.
3. Attendance was +750; pre-RAD sign ups were 800.

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3. RSO Guidance. Mr. Southerland provided the Council members guidance on Retired Soldier Council meetings and Appreciation Days. The Council is required to conduct semi-annual meetings usually conducted after the RAD events. The Council meets and briefs with the Garrison leadership team during the Fall on either 18th or 2nd of August 2024 at Patrick Space Force Base (PSFB). COL (R) Lauricella has the mission to start pre-coordinating the dates with PSFB.
4. Co-Chairs COL (R) La Fate and CSM (R) Bobb discussed the importance of draft Issue Papers be sent out by mid-August for review. Final review will be sent to the CG and IMCOM to the CSA Council NLT the last week of October 2024. It was discussed that a review of the history of issues submitted might help the Council members to determine which issues are still relevant and need to be re-addressed.
5. Potential issues for CSA submission were briefly discussed. It was also noted commented that in the future, the Co-Chairs should share the Issues in Development slide with all Committee Members not just the sub committee chairs.
6. The Council charter was approved and sign by both Co-Chairpersons on 18 May 2024.

D. B. Bobb

Divina Bobb
CSM (R), US Army
Co-Chair, Fort Stewart/HAAF Retired Council

Kinard J. La Fate

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COL (R), US Army
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