**Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Air Field Retired Soldier Advisory Council Meeting**

**17 January 2025**

Conducted via Teams

**Council Members in Attendance**

COL (R) Kin La Fate – Co-Chair CSM (R) Dee Bobb –Co Chair CSM (R) Leon Caffie

COL (R) Tom Roberts CW5 (R) Bob Letendre SFC (R) Karen Bell

LTC (R) Karen Nigara CSM (R) Mike Balch SFC (R) Shauntai Arrington

LTC (R) Donald Hansen COL (R) Jim Papritan COL (R) Kevin Milton

SFC (R) Terry Ann Lewis LTC Blair Craig MSG Dailia Espeut-Jones

CSM (R) Edward Shelton

**Ft. Stewart-HAAF Team in Attendance**

Mr. David Southerland, Director Human Resources

Ms. Anna Taylor, Retirement Services Officer

Ms. Julie Lovelady, Assistant Retirement Services Officer

Mr. Ernest T. Smith, RSO-MacDill AFB

RAD 2025

CSM (R) Bobb presented the following “Take Always” for the 2025 RAD:

* Mr. Mike Kepner (from UCF) is finalizing arrangements to support 2025 RAD (22 March). Mr. Kepner is coordinating for Golf Carts, ROTC Cadets, UCF facility rooms within the Student Union.
* Breakout rooms needed for representatives from VA Disability and Surviving Spouses Briefers.
* Potential Speaker: Request for MG Christopher R. Norrie to do a Video recording. The Fort Stewart Garrison Commander will provide his normal opening remarks.
* Other potential Guest Speakers include: Dr. Alexander N. Cartwright, UCF President and BG (R) Stephen Saey, Director of Leadership and Career Development Strategies for Student Athletes (UCF)
* Ms. Taylor stated we have 30+ Vendors committed at this time
* Coordinating for additional Food concessionaires to support the event.
* Kevin Milton requested that PAO provide a coordinated PAO release statement for the event.
* MSG Dailia Espeut-Jones, Acting Media Coordinator will coordinate with the following:
	+ Local newspapers
	+ TV Channel 6 with Trooper Steve. He does positive military stories and community calendar alerts)
	+ Orlando VA Public Affairs Office--Harold Borrero-Almodovar, Program Specialist Veterans Outreach Coordinator HaroldBorrero-Almodovar@va.gov (Completed)
	+ Chris Robertson, Executive Director Museum of Military History museumofmilitaryhistory.com and Militarymuseum192@gmail.com
* CSM Bobb, and LTC Nigara will develop a concept for announcing to the attendees collection points for submitting their questions with council members available to collect their questions to ensure we fully understand the meaning of their question.

LTC Karen Nigara’s CSARSC 2nd QTR Key Meeting Notes

* Included are some of the discussion between the Co-chairs regarding the methodology and theory behind future development and presentation of issues to the CSA. LTG Anderson is concerned that the Council submits too many issues and repetitive issues year after year regarding the same topics. He has asked the Council members in their sub committees to prioritize the issues that they review. For example, I am on the Benefits team. We have four issues:
* 1.Surviving Spouse losing all retirement benefits upon re-marriage
* 2. SBP shared entitlements
* 3. Augmented SOS to Survivors of Retired Soldiers
* 4. TFL support for retirees over 65 waiting on Medicare registration
	+ Fort Stewart has two issues being considered: both in the Communications Team
		- VR&E awareness and utilization
		- Provide Army RSOs with Cellular Contact Info
* Retirement Services Office Update
	+ Emails and Flyers have been sent out to 28K Florida residents. Currently working on Georgia and South Carolina.
	+ Event-Bright: +878 already signed up for the event with using mailers—major reduction in cost that support the Command focus and budget goals
	+ Flyer is posted to Facebook & website w/QR Code
	+ Lodging for Council Members at the Hampton Inn. Thirty rooms booked at a cost of $169; 20 Feb 2025 is the cut off for booking the rooms
	+ Rule of thumb for TDY eligibility: must be over 50-mile driving distance
	+ ID Cards **will not** be hosted at the 2025 RAD but will be budgeted for during the 2026 RAD.

Council Updates

* Project Mid-Year Council Meeting: Location Patrick Space Force Base on 1 Aug 2025.
* Welcomed new Council members SFCs (R) Shauntai Arrington (Jacksonville) and Terry Ann Lewis (Tampa)

The next Virtual Retired Soldier Council meeting will be on **14 February 2025 @1400**.

Dee Bobb Kinard J. La Fate

DEE BOBB KINARD J. LAFATE

CSM (R), USA COL (R), USA

Co-Chair, FS/HAAF Retiree Council Co-Chair, FS/HAAF Retiree Council