**FORT STEWART RETIRED SOLDIER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**18 October 2024**

Conducted via Telecom

**Council Members in Attendance**

COL (R) Kin La Fate – Co-Chair LTC (R) Blair Craig

COL (R) Kevin Milton CW5 (R) Bob Letendre

CSM (R) Mike Balch LTC (R) Donald Hansen

LTC (R) Karen Nigara CSM (R) Edward Shelton

COL (R) Tom Roberts SFC (R) Karen Bell

**Ft. Stewart-HAAF RSO Team**

Mr. Tom Allmon, Director Human Resources

Mr. David Southerland, Fort Stewart/ HAAF MPD Chief

Ms. Julie Lovelady, Fort Stewart/HAAF Assistant Installation RSO

Ms. Anna Taylor, Fort Stewart/HAAF Assistant Installation RSO

Mr. Ernest T. Smith, Fort Stewart/ Tampa Assistant Installation RSO

RAD 2025

CW5 (R) Bob Letendre and CSM Dee Bobb presented the following “Take Aways” from their 2025 Pre-RAD coordination meeting with Mike Kepner:

* Mike Kepner is very enthusiastic about supporting the 2025 RAD and sees this as an opportunity to promote UCF’s support for the military.
	+ Stressed putting Parking Garage H (PGH) information in the RAD flyer
	+ Mike suggested several local resources to advertise the RAD:
		- Local newspapers
		- TV channels (cited Trooper Steve Montero who does positive military stories on CH 6)
		- Orlando VA Public Affairs Office--Harold Borrero-Almodovar, VA Veterans Outreach Coordinator
		- Mike will coordinate with ROTC for golf cart drivers posted at PGH
		- Potential “Welcome to UCF” opening remarks speakers:
			* Dr. Alexander N. Cartwright, UCF President
			* BG Stephen Seay, Director of Leadership and Career Development Strategies for student athletes

Other speaker resources:

* Dr. Deborah Beidel, Director of UCF Restores, a research-based program that offers intensive outpatient therapy for individuals with PTSD and other trauma-related concerns. It serves first responders, military veterans, survivors of sexual assault, mass violence and natural disasters, and others affected by trauma.
* Andrew Carroll, Historian, New York Times bestselling author, and founding director of the Center for American War Letters. He traveled to all 50 states and more than 40 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan and (recently) Ukraine to find and preserve war letters and emails by service members, their loved ones, and civilians caught in the crossfire; of conflicts.
* Dr. Barbara Gannon, the UCF History Department’s coordinator for The UCF Community Veterans History Project that is collecting, preserving, and making accessible to the public the experiences of Central Florida veterans so that future generations will better understand the realities of conflict.
* CSA
	+ CSA Openings
		- 2 Officers 1 NCO
	+ 2 Packets were finalized and forward to the Garrison Commander for approval
	+ 2 Issue Papers were completed and submission to the Garrison Commander for approval.

Mr. Allmon highlighted issues addressing possible speakers (MG Christopher R. Norrie and LTG (R) Joseph Anderson). If available, MG Norrie would either act as the speaker for the event or intro LTG (R) Anderson as the speaker. Last, Mr. Allmon will coordinate with his staff to determine if we can provide ID card service during the 2025 RAD.

Other Issues: Major Issue paper for 2025 relating to the lack resourcing for NAVAIR Orlando Training Systems Division (12217 Science Rd, Orlando, FL 32826) to continue to operate underman and under funded to support ID Card and DEERs. Currently, they serve 70% of the population in Orlando because other authorized facilities limit their hours of operations or often refer customer to go to NAVAIR due to the lack of personnel and resources to support the program.

* The next Virtual Retired Soldier Council meeting will be on TBD November 2024 @1400.

Dee Bobb Kinard J. La Fate

DEE BOBB KINARD J. LAFATE

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

Co-Chair, Ft Stewart Retiree Council Co-Chair, Ft Stewart Retiree Council