**FORT STEWART RETIRED SOLDIER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 November 2024**

Conducted via Telecom

**Council Members in Attendance**

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

COL (R) Sam Lauricella CW5 (R) Bob Letendre CSM Leon Caffie

CSM (R) Mike Balch LTC (R) Donald Hansen SFC (R) Espeut-Jones

LTC (R) Karen Nigara CSM (R) Edward Shelton Col (R) Jim Papritan

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

**Ft. Stewart-HAAF RSO Team**

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

RAD 2025

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

* Mike Kepner will meet after Thanksgiving to lock down finalization of the RAD Location/ Date/ at University of Central Florida.
* Potential Speakers
  + - Invitations sent to (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. Other potential Speakers include:
    - Dr. Alexander N. Cartwright, UCF President
    - BG (R) Stephen Seay, Director of Leadership and Career Development Strategies for student athletes
    - David will coordinate with his staff to determine if we can provide ID card service during the 2025 RAD.
    - Anna mentioned that we have 22+ Vendors Committed at this time
    - Currently, no conflicts with our conference date which is a plus for getting ROTC support for Golf Cart Shuttling and parking details. Stressed putting Parking Garage H (PGH) information in the RAD flyer
    - Food Concessionaires will be on hand—need to coordinate
    - Navy Federal (Ms. Kim Nasi, Mtg Business Development Officer/ [Kimberly\_nasi@navyfederal.org](mailto:Kimberly_nasi@navyfederal.org) // 407-607-5542) is locked in for providing resources to support the RAD Refreshment Stations. They will pay the bill directly to the POC at the University of Central Florida.
  + Dee suggested several local resources to advertise the RAD but need Fort Stewart PAO release statement before proceeding with the following networks:
    - 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

Other University of Central Florida Resources Available Upon Request:

* 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.

David’s Key Points

* Plans to coordinate with his staff to conduct an on-site assessment of the facility next month to determine if we can provide ID card service during the 2025 RAD.
* Event Flyer will be emailed consecutively on 15 December 2024, 15 January 2025, 15 February 2025 and during the first week of March 2025.
* Budget cuts dictate that we think outside the box with creative ways to contact our audience. Some mail outs will occur but the vast number of mailings will be drastically reduced.
* DFAS will participate in the RAD and will further support our efforts by linking RAD event to their monthly Web Info/ Statements.
* Adoption of LTC (R) George Fredrick’s recommendation for cutting the overall all briefings and allow for breakout rooms to support Specialized briefing tailored to individuals. As an example:
  + Provide Breakout room for the VA Disability Rep
  + Provide Breakout room for the ID Card Rep
  + Provide Breakout room for the Surviving Spouses Briefing
  + Provide Breakout room for the DFAS Rep for Finance/ DEERS
  + Provide Breakout room for the Gray Area Retirees
* CSA
  + CSA Council Nominations/ Issue Papers
    - Fort Stewart met the IMCOM Suspense 29 October 2024 for Issue Papers and Nomination Packets.
    - 2 Issue Papers were completed and submission to the Garrison Commander for approval.
    - 2 Nominations were approved for submission
* The next Virtual Retired Soldier Council meeting will be on 13 December 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