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

**14 February 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 COL (R) Kevin Milton SFC (R) Shauntai Arrington

LTC (R) Donald Hansen COL (R) Jim Papritan MSG(R) Dailia Espeut-Jones LTC(R) Blair Craig CSM(R) Edward Shelton SFC (R) Terry Ann Lewis

COL(R) Salvatore Lauricella LTC(R) George Frederick

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

Mr. David Southerland, Acting 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

COL(R) La Fate

* Announced that MSG(R) Dailia Espeut-Jones was inducted into the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award on 6 February 2025 at the Orlando Mayor’s Veteran Council.
* CW5(R) Bob Letendre will resign his seat on the council and will seek a replacement to backfill him. Bob has been on the council for over +10 years and has instrumental in filling this leadership position.
* Navy Federal Bank will assume all direct cost for the RAD Coffee Refreshment station
* Note from last month: 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.
* Recommend that we offer QR Codes as an option for attendees to complete the AAR; and registration verification. QR Codes will decrease the amount of time to process long lines. One table can be set-up to support QR Codes.

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

* Pending meeting with Mr. Mike Kepner (from UCF) to finalize support requirements for the 2025 RAD (22 March). Mr. Kepner is coordinating for Golf Carts, ROTC Cadets, UCF facility rooms within the Student Union.
* 3 Breakout rooms are needed for representatives from VA Disability, Gray Ghost Retirees and Surviving Spouses Briefers (Short intro comments followed by a breakout room for a deep dive on the subject). Very important, we need to know what the speakers need in each room.
* Tentative Speaker MG Christopher R. Norrie or the Fort Stewart Garrison Commander will provide his normal opening remarks.
* Ms. Taylor stated we have 30+ Vendors committed at this time
* Coordinating for additional Food concessionaires to support the event.
* MSG Dailia Espeut-Jones, Acting Media Coordinator will coordinate with the following:
* Meet & Greet on 21 March
	+ Option #1 Bonefish Grill offers a 10% discount for Vets
	+ Option #2 VFW—Free room and great food for the cost
	+ Option #3 Hotel Conference room (Order Pizza and drinks available)
	+ Invitation out to Mayor Demmings, Orange County Mayor (Completed)
	+ 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 (Completed)
* Retirement Services Office Update
	+ 6K Mailer will be sent out to residents without email.
	+ Event-Bright: +1317 already signed up for the event without 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; 22 Feb 2025 is the cut off for booking rooms under the Government contracted price.
	+ Rule of thumb for TDY eligibility: must be over 50-mile driving distance

Council Updates

* Project Mid-Year Council Meeting: Location Patrick Space Force Base on 15 Aug 2025.

The next Virtual Retired Soldier Council meeting will be on **7 March 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