

AFRICOM FRG Committee May 7, 2015 Meeting Recap



News and Notes

TOP STORY: New FRG Leader, Stacey Meyer, has joined the team. At her first meeting on May 7 she presented her short- and long-term priorities: (1) FRG participation in the AFRICOM Olympics, (2) ensure an [AFRICOM](#) Facebook page is developed and maintained, and (3) develop a standard approach for welcoming new family members to AFRICOM.

Commandant's Report: LTC Troy Alexander

- He is enthused by the level of volunteer support he is seeing among the FRG. In particular, he gave a warm welcome to the new AFRICOM FRG Leader Stacey Meyer. *"She graciously agreed to serve in this role and is really working hard with key senior advisors to develop a solid vision for the FRG,"* said Alexander.
- He reminded all that his role is to support the FRG and he will extend that support to the Shared Services his office will provide. *"At the end of the day all of us (in the Commandant's office) are committed to the families of AFRICOM and to making sure that they are taken care of,"* said Alexander.
- Change to monthly events: Starting in May, the third (3rd) Friday of every month will be the AFRICOM Hail and Farewell and the First Friday social events will return to the first Friday.

First Fridays: 5 Jun (J2); 10 Jul (J1/8) (Note - 4th of July weekend, hence this one is on the following week); 14 Aug (J9) (Note - AFRICOM Olympics is 7Aug, hence this one is on the following week); 11 Sep (J7) (4 Sep is Labor Day weekend, this one may change due to it being 9/11); 2 Oct (J6) 6 Nov (J5) Dec will be the Holiday Party, date/time TBD

Hail/Farewell: 15 May (J3); 26 Jun (J2); 24 Jul (J1/8); 28 Aug (J9); 25 Sep (J7); 16 Oct (J6); 20 Nov (J5) Dec will be the Holiday Party, date/time TBD

Ginny Rodriguez, AFRICOM Commander's Spouse

- She offered sincere thanks to Michelle Huggins who is coming to the end of her assigned time here. Michelle made a presentation at Americans Working Around the Globe (AWAG) about project management and *"did an incredible job keeping the Command Group informed w/email updates,"* said Ginny.
- Also moving on is Sheri Hummer. *"She really was our guru, expert of so many things, she kept us on track with rules and regulations, and she was the one who created the beautiful AFRICOM pin. She will leave a huge void in this organization,"* said Ginny.

"We need to reach out to all of AFRICOM. The senior reps need to step back so we can encourage those new to the FRG to offer their perspectives and ideas. The more we can empower our families the more our families get taken care of, and that's why we are in existence," said Ginny Rodriguez.

Stacey Meyer, FRG Leader

Previous to this assignment she served as the United States Forces Korea (USFK) Senior FRG Leader for almost two years. She was also on the Seoul Middle School PTO and a Community Liaison to the Yongsan Garrison. *"I'm very excited about working with the AFRICOM team over the next year,"* said Meyer. She defined her top three priorities:

1. **FRG Representative for the AFRICOM Olympics** - According to a briefing sheet she provided at the meeting, "The AFRICOM Olympics FRG representative helps plan, run and organize children's events (under the age of 12) in support of the Annual AFRICOM Olympics, which is a command-sponsored event." Jessica Wilson and Robin Vechery volunteered to serve as co-FRG Reps for the AFRICOM Olympics.
2. **AFRICOM Facebook Page** - Stacey noted that there are a number of AFRICOM FB pages, but we need to pick one that is accessible to the FRG and start to promote it. She will run everything by JAG and PAO. EUCOM has a great FB page and Stacey has a contact at EUCOM to learn about its FB best practices.
3. **Welcome events for new families** - Sherrie Resch, Jessica Wilson and Ginny Rodriguez recently met to discuss a plan of action.

109 children

Quality of Life Office:

John Shoupe (QOL) Coordinator reminded the group that we also need to focus on the continent. *"Do you know how many kids are in AFRICOM in the continent? There are 109 in 26 different countries. Those families down there need help, too. Think about how we can help them."* John may be reached at john.h.shoupe.civ@mail.mil.

FRG Participants in AWAG (Americans Working Around the Globe) Seminar:

The seminar was held April 26-30, 2015 at the Edelwiess Resort in Garmisch. Priscilla Maxwell is the area AWAG representative for the Swabian area. She noted that a mini AWAG conference will take place in Stuttgart in the fall. An AWAG committee will meet during the summer and determine date and location. Anyone interested in attending or presenting should check the website in the coming months for details.

Incredible resources are available on the AWAG site in the form of PDF presentations made at the seminar. To download any of the presentations go to: <http://www.awagonline.org/2015-Speaker-Presentations.html>. Photo below of the Swabian delegation, which includes members of the AFRICOM FRG. (Photo source: AWAG website)



Upcoming Events:

- **Army Ball June 13.** Further information will be forthcoming. AFRICOM POC for the ball is LTC Matt Blatt richard.m.blatt.mil@mail.mil / phone: 4907117293753.
- **AFRICOM Newcomers Welcome June 25.** Kelley Club at 4:30 p.m.
- **AFRICOM Olympics August 7, 2015.** Location: Kelley Barracks (Copper Field) The J3 has the lead for this event. They will begin conducting various fundraising opportunities shortly.

AFRICOM lapel pins: Look great and support the FRG!

The sole source of funds for FRG activities is the sale of the beautiful AFRICOM lapel pin. At a price of only \$22 it is a purchase to consider for yourself or for someone in your AFRICOM family. Please keep this lovely item in mind when in need of a special gift. To purchase a pin please contact your directorate rep or the AFRICOM pin sale coordinator, Betsey Ruiter, at betseyruiter@yahoo.com. The AFRICOM FRG greatly appreciates your support!



Find us on the web:

FRG section of Commandant's page on AFRICOM website: <http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/directorates-and-staff/j031-hq-commandant> or send us an email: usafricomfrg@gmail.com.

Next AFRICOM FRG meeting:

Thursday, June 4, 2015. Time: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Location: AFRICOM HQ, Commander's Mess, Kelley Kaserne. All AFRICOM family members are invited to attend.

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(Masthead photos source: AFRICOM Public Affairs website)