



# STILL SERVING

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

I hope this finds everyone doing well.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome COL Kenneth O. McCreedy as the new Garrison Commander. You will find he is very supportive of the retirees and their issues.

The 2005 Retiree Appreciation Days held in September was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed the meals, information booths medical screening and the Subject Matter Expert Panel, which included people from CRSC and Retired Pay. This year we will be trying something new and completely different. It will be held on 27 October 2006 at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. Hopefully we will be able to have information booths and classes on different subjects all during the day. Medical screening will be done at the different clinics. In the evening we will have a dinner with the guest speaker. This is still in the planning stages. The final decisions and schedule will be published in the summer edition. Stay tuned.

Our office is located at 2234 Huber Road, the corner of Ernie Pyle and Huber. We are in the basement in Rooms 007/009. Please stop by and say hi. If you wish to discuss an issue this is done by appointment only. Please make one by calling (301)677-9603 or by using the e-mail address below.

The e-mail address for the Retirement Services Office is:  
[mderso@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil](mailto:mderso@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil).

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### NOTICE

*Published by the Retirement Services Office (RSO), United States Army Garrison, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland as a Service to Army retirees and their families. Articles appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the commander. Direct inquiries to the Retirement Services Branch, MPD, ATTN: INME-MEA-HRM-X, 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5076.*

## **INSTALLATION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE COL Kenneth O. McCreedy**

This serves as my first column for the Retiree Newsletter since assuming command of Fort Meade last June. As I wrote in my Thanksgiving commentary for Soundoff!, I want to thank everyone in the community for the warm welcome you've extended to my wife LeAnn and the entire McCreedy household. We are most appreciative and grateful for the many things our retirees do to help make this a better place to live and work. "Still Serving" has long been the proud motto of our retiree population, and you've lived up to those words with your active participation and support for our programs.

Much has happened in the six months I've been here. Probably the most significant development has been Base Realignment and Closure commission recommendations. As a result of BRAC, this installation will experience much growth and expansion in the next few years. Fort Meade is scheduled to receive a wide variety of DoD organizations and activities to include the American Forces Information Service, the Army Hometown News Center, the Naval Media Center, and the Defense Information Systems Agency. We are looking at a potential gain of more than 5,300 military and civilian positions coming to Fort Meade.

The BRAC recommendations are intended to enhance the military's ability meet contingency and mobilization requirements; retain those installations that have unique capabilities; consolidate similar, duplicative training and support functions by capitalizing on advances in better business practices. The Army Chief of Staff has defined an Army focus to create "Installations as Flagships." Fort Meade is well on its way to being such an installation. In fact it could easily be argued that we are at the forefront of creating the model for a truly joint service post. Moreover, the foresight of past commanders has prepared this installation well for the growth that is anticipated as a result of BRAC and other decisions by the federal government and DoD.

We will continue to provide security for the critical mission areas on post, while improving access to non-mission critical areas. The political leaders of our region at every level have been very supportive of efforts to widen and improve MD Route 175 between the B-W Parkway and 170. I expect the state to take up

work on developing plans for this project right after the first of the year using monies appropriated in the National Highway Act and preliminary studies prepared by Anne Arundel County.

When completed, this project will include a noise barrier to provide greater security than the present fence line. A widened Route 175 also will provide for a smoother traffic flow on to the post. Finally, the road will significantly increase the volume of traffic that can pass along Route 175 and make it a significant engine for the future development of Odenton, Gambrills and the surrounding area.

These are exciting times. Fort Meade's future is bright, even as we continue to grapple with budget shortfalls and competing priorities.

My staff and I are determined to make this a place where a Joint Service team chooses to come together in pursuit of different missions. Retirees and their families are an important part of this community. Along with our active duty service members, Reservists, civilian employees and contractors, you share a responsibility for making things better. Please let us know when things aren't working the way they should. And take time to enjoy all the programs, activities, and fine facilities this installation has available.

This is a proud post with a proud past. In 2007 we will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fort Meade's establishment as an active Army installation. Watch for more information on this historic observance in upcoming issues of the Soundoff! as well as in the pages of this publication. Meanwhile, I'm glad to be on board and I look forward to continuing to work with our retiree community. You are a critically important part of our family. Thank you for all you do as you are all "Still Serving."

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS Colonel Bert L. Rice, (US Army Ret)**

**Happy New Year! I hope you had a spirit filled Christmas!** Many of us enjoyed the Christmas Season and the joy of being with family, friends, eating good food and so forth. I hope, too, that you took time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and remembered the military service members serving our nation thousands of miles away from their families. We thank them and their families for serving us!

The Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) activities in September went well. We are already planning for RAD activities in 2006 at approximately the same time of year, September or October. Please watch the notices in the Army Echoes, this newsletter, **Still Serving**, and in the Fort Meade newspaper, **SOUNDOFF**. As in the past, we, the Fort Meade Retiree Council, solicit your ideas and comments. It takes time, effort and some money to conduct TAD activities and, so, you can assist in many ways. All you need do is to contact any member of the Retiree Council or Mr. Steve Ashley, or his staff at the Retirement Services Office and tell us how you want to get involved. You can join the council as well, if you are willing to actively participate. This is a standing invitation to anyone interested!

There are several other articles in this newsletter that provide information about very important retiree related issues. I encourage you to read these and those published in Army Echoes. Many of your questions might be answered there. Also, if you happen to have access to a computer and the Internet, you will be able to learn about many retiree issues. Please keep informed through whatever medium as it could make a difference in your medical costs and so forth.

Legislation that we encourage you to support is the proposed Maryland legislation to exempt military retired pay from state and local income taxes. This legislation is being proposed again in the current legislative session. **The only way that it will pass is if we all get involved and contact our state Senators and Delegates and solicit their support. This is the best chance that this legislation has ever had to pass. However, it will not pass if we sit idly by and do nothing! So, lets call, write, e-mail, and/or meet with these State elected officials immediately.** It is the right thing to do for the economy of Maryland and the retired military service members who live or would like to live and work in this state.

Finally, thanks are in order. I want to personally thank you for your service to the nation. And, we owe a big thanks to Installation Commander Kenneth O. McCreedy and his staff for their support of all retirees who pass through the gates at Fort Meade. Fort Meade is a great installation and is getting even better! Hooah!!

**FROM THE COUNCIL'S CO-CHAIRMAN  
SGM Kenneth L. McCall, Sr., USA RET**

I ask your indulgence as I reflect upon events that occurred during this past Veterans Day (2005) celebration and why I feel the need to address this subject in my article today. If the story of Veterans contributions to our United States is not being delivered, we have no one to fault but ourselves. We fail to inform our youth of our service, which is a part of American history, and we must take every advantage to share our story. On 10 November 2005, a team of military retirees and veterans composed of 1SG Boris Spiroff (USA Ret), SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret), Stephen Ashley (RSO, Fort Meade) and myself had the opportunity to address the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes of the Severna Park Middle School, Anne Arundel County. The invitation was extended by Mrs. Christine Federroll, a teacher at the school, who wanted the students to learn first hand, of the contributions and sacrifices made by yesterday's heroes. Team members were assigned to classrooms through which the students rotated, and shared with them information relative to their backgrounds, military experience which included service overseas and in combat zones and the like. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the teachers were extremely receptive of the information sharing and asked many thought provoking questions making the six (6) hours there pass quickly. I debriefed the team afterwards and the "old soldiers" had many complimentary remarks to share relative to the courtesy, behavior and attentiveness of the students. We received as much pleasure telling our "war stories" as the students did listening to us. The presentations were intended to be educational, which they were, however, the World War II era presenters (one in OD's, the other in Greens), were somewhat surprised to learn that many of the students were not aware of the significance of that war even though they had older family members that served during same.

As a part of my presentation (Korea and Vietnam), I asked the question: "What is a Veteran?" and though many were able to respond correctly, several though that it was a doctor that treated animals. In an effort to increase their knowledge, I asked the students to identify family members, neighbors, or friends that maybe veterans, to ask them questions about their military service and record their responses and thank them for their sacrifices and contributions. (Mrs. Federroll has since informed me that many of the students were participating in the project.) I as proud of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Severna Park Middle School and of

the teachers that supported our “teaching team” and of the team itself. We are looking forward to next year.

I think that we as military retirees/veterans, have an obligation to perpetuate our contributions to history. Not only those that served in the “hot wars”, but the Cold War as well for many of the participants were exposed to hostile action also. Ms Jamie Miller, former teach at MacArthur Middle School. Fort Meade, shared with me the following statement that I think captures the essence of what I am trying to convey. She stated that whenever a veteran dies, a library closes. Think about it. The veteran harbors so much military history relative to their military service experience and it should, no, must, be shared with their families. Not only will it benefit the family and its history, but will also serve to provide information that documents specific highlights of the veterans service if needed to support a claim or the like. I ask each reader to participate in this effort and to encourage veterans that they know to do the same.

Our country owes much to its veterans for they were/are the men and women who sacrificed much for its interest. On Memorial Day we honor the dead that served country in war and peace. On Veterans Day we pay homage to our deceased comrades, but we also pay honor to the living veteran. Our veterans come in all colors, shapes, sizes, religious orientation and occupations. Some are elderly, disabled, incarcerated and homeless, but they all have one thing in common. They served their country honorably and were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in its defense. We should take every opportunity to thank our veterans and to pass on their story. And, if you are interested in joining our “teaching team” to bring living history to our classrooms, please write to me at PO Box 177, Fort Meade, MD 20755, giving me your name, address, telephone number, rank, branch of service (all branches are asked to participate) and dates of service and the school system that you would like to work with. We need volunteers for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and special events. Please join us.

As an aside, I was recently appointed by Maryland’s Governor Ehrlich to serve on the task force for the establishment of a Maryland women veterans monument dedicated to women from Maryland who served in the uniformed services of the United States. We are to identify and recommend the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate monument. I serve as the chairman of

the placement (location) sub-committee. The task force report is due to the governor by 31 December 2005. I will keep you posted on this item through the Fort Meade RSO newsletter.

In closing, I share with you Max’s signature line: “And may God hold you in the hollow of his hand”.

## **POST LIBRARY CHECK IT OUT!**

Ah retirement! Now you have time for all those hobbies—cooking, golf, photography, gardening or perhaps a resume to write, to find your next career move. We’ve got something of interest for everyone, just a few blocks from your Commissary and PX trip to Fort Meade. At 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, near the Theatre and Main Chapel, the Post Library has those best-selling novels and a variety of non-fiction titles on many topics. You might want to catch up on those classics you never got around to reading and we even have books-on-tape and compact discs. Whatever your current interest is...computers to history, investing to crocheting... take home a book. Read the latest issue of over 100 magazines and newspapers available for you on our shelves. Surf the Internet on one of our computers--for tickets to local theatres, sports information, or travel planning. You’ve got the time and we’ve got the resources. Use our online catalog at <http://mead.sirsi.net:3236>, call 301-677-5522, or come by Tuesday – Friday 11a.m.-6p.m. Why not take a stroll around Lake Burba and then come in and warm up with a good book at the Post Library.

## **HELP WANTED! CASHIERS**

The Fort Meade Commissary is hiring cashiers Part Time Position. Apply on line, stop by the store, or call me at (703)603-1683, to request an application form. Weekend shifts available and also opportunities for students under the “Student Temporary Program” with flexible schedules. Log on to [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov), click on career opportunities, under Federal employment click on USA JOBS. Apply for Vacancy Number DC152700 for Sales Store Checker. You must use (0445) for the Fort

Meade Commissary Geographic Availability.  
Help us eliminate long lines.

## **FORT MEADE ID CARD SECTION**

Hours for the Fort Meade Army ID Card Section is 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. The office is closed the first Thursday of the month in the mornings. The Army ID Card Section is located in building 2234 at the intersection of Huber Road and Ernie Pyle Street. It is advisable to call first in order to establish how long the wait time is. The phone number is (301)677-9586.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you have moved recently you need to file a change of address with retired pay. This may either be done by writing directly to Retired Pay (address is located elsewhere in the newsletter), by writing to this office, or if you have internet capability and have access to Retired Pay through the internet, you may go that route. If you are writing to Retired Pay or this office please provide the following information:

Name  
Retired Grade  
**SSN: (mandatory)**  
Old address  
New address

## **HANDY PHONE NUMBERS**

### **FORT MEADE**

ACS/AER (301) 677-5590  
Commissary (301) 677-7463  
Health Benefits Advisor (301) 677-8982  
ID Cards (301) 677-9586 (2234 Huber Road)  
Legal Assistance (301) 677-9536  
Kimbrough Med. Clinic (301) 677-8392  
Post Exchange (301) 677-7685  
RSO (301) 677-9600/9602/9603  
Casualty Assistance (301)677-2902  
(to report death of retiree)  
ITO (301)677-7354

### **ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND**

ACS (410) 278-7474  
Commissary (410) 278-3101  
ID Cards (410) 306-2389

Legal Assistance (410) 278-1583  
Medical Clinic (410) 278-1998/1727  
Post Exchange (410) 272-6828  
Local RSO (410) 306-2320

### **FORT DETRICK**

ACS (301) 619-2187  
Commissary (301) 619-2616  
ID Cards (301) 619-6635  
Legal Assistance (301) 619-2643  
Medical Clinic (301) 619-7175  
Post Exchange (301) 619-7755

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Much like the way steel reinforces concrete to make a structure strong, the work of volunteers strengthen a community. Volunteers serve in various capacities and their contributions to the Fort George G. Meade community are immeasurable. Volunteering isn't simply nice to do, it is necessary to maintain services in the community. What would our lives, our communities, our country be like without people from all walks of life-people from small businesses, faith-based organizations, low income communities, families, youth, and older adults-volunteering to extend a helping hand to those in need?

Volunteer opportunities are widespread throughout the Fort Meade community. Some of these opportunities include the American Red Cross, Library, Army Community Service, Child and Youth Services, Tax Center, Thrift Shop, and Arts and Crafts Center.

The process for becoming a volunteer is a fairly simple one. The first step is for the potential volunteer to contact the Installation Volunteer Coordinator who will provide the volunteer with volunteer forms that must be completed prior to the commencement of services. These forms must be signed by the agency accepting the volunteer. A copy of these forms must be forwarded to the Volunteer Office to officially "register" the individual as a volunteer. After a volunteer becomes registered he or she may begin volunteering, making sure to document their hours worked. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the Volunteer Office at 301-677-5590.

## Blood drive for our military

***Fellow retirees - let's pitch in and help our military in a sincerely personal way - by making a donation at the up coming Fort Meade blood drives. Fort Meade is conducting blood drives that EXCLUSIVELY benefit the military! See comments from the Armed Services Blood Bank Center leadership about our blood drives:***

**[The note below was recently sent to the Fort Meade Garrison Commander:](#)**

I want to thank you for Ft Meade's support to the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) by hosting several blood drives this past year. The blood drive was extremely successful.

These units are in direct support of the military men and women in harms way, other active duty military, dependants and retirees. The ASBBC could not support our blood needs without your staff that made this drive so successful.

In order to meet the current blood needs of the NCR and overseas contingency operations, the ASBBC needs to collect between 800-1000 units/month. Ft. Meade is a key player in accomplishing this goal, therefore, it is my hope that we can continue blood drives like the one on Friday on a routine and frequent basis.

Again, Thanks for your support, the Armed Services Blood Bank Center (ASBBC), ASBP and the military men and women on the receiving end truly appreciate it.

CDR Brian K. Williamson  
Director, ASBBC

**[This note was recently sent to all donors who participate in the Fort Meade Blood Drives](#)**

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center (ASBBC), National Capital Region (NCR) really need's the support of all personnel aboard DoD facilities. The Center continues to ship blood overseas in support of OIF/OEF. We also support daily blood transfusion needs of The National Naval

Medical Center (Bethesda), Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Walter Reed Medical Center as well as maintaining an adequate supply of blood and blood products to meet contingency and mobilization requirements.

We are in constant need for blood and the travel deferral imposed by FDA is still in effect. This combined with all other deferrals, means about 1 out of 6 people are eligible to donate. We really need those who are eligible to come forward and help us in this life saving mission. To accomplish this mission the ASBBC needs to collect approximately 200 pints of blood per week.

***If we are unable to get the support from our own resources (DoD/military personnel) we may have to get the blood from our civilian counterparts and pay a processing fee of about \$250 - \$300.00.***

The Armed Services Blood Bank Program is pleading to all command leadership to offer some form of incentive to promote participation at military blood drives aboard your facilities.

Request you mark your calendars as appropriate for the following 06 blood drives at the Fort Meade McGill Training Center.

21 Feb 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

18 April 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

20 June 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

15 Aug 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

17 Oct 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

19 Dec 2006 McG Center 0900-1300

To learn more about this effort and how to make an appointment contact Ms. Cooper at 301-677-5406 or Ms.Thompson at 301-677-7036.



## ACAP FOR LIFE FOR ARMY RETIREES

### What is ACAP You ask?

It is the Army Career and Alumni Program. It is the Army's premiere transition assistance program for service members and their family members who are considering or have already decided to leave the Army. ACAP has counselors to assist with individual transition decisions, writing resumes, completing applications and developing a career plan. ACAP has self-paced, interactive, multimedia computer systems that put your future at your fingertips. ACAP also uses computer based training to provide job assistance training, practice interviews and related transition support. Retirees can register and use our automated tools, make an appointment to see a counselor, and sign up for specialty workshops that you are interested in attending.

### Who benefits from ACAP?

Retirees and their adult family members have ACAP services for life on a space available basis.

### Where can I find ACAP Services?

The Fort Meade Army Career and Alumni Program Center is located in Room 011, Bldg 2234, intersection of Ernie Pyle and Huber Roads. The phone number is (301) 677-9871. There are also ACAP offices at Army installations around the world. For information you may find our home page very useful. [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil).

## FORT GEORGE G. MEADE RETIREE COUNCIL

COL BERT L. RICE, USA RET (CHAIRMAN)  
SGM KENNETH L. McCALL, SR., USA RET  
(CO-CHAIRMAN)  
COL CHARLES M. SHADLE, USA RET (APG)  
COL EDWARD H. UEMURA, USA RET  
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LTC JEANETTE HAMMOND, USA RET  
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MSG BARBARA BARRON, USA RET  
MSG JAMES W. LICKLITER, USA RET  
SFC CARLO DEPORTO, USA RET  
MSGT CHARLES E. PLUMMER, USAF RET  
MSGT WILLIAM F. PONS, USAF RET  
SFC JAMES L. WAFER, USA RET  
SSG WALTER B. HOLLMAN, USA RET  
CATHERINE ECKFORD  
CECILLE I. MORSE

## ONLINE PERSONNEL RECORD REQUESTS

The military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military veterans may now request copies of military personnel records **online** from the National Personnel Records Center. The new Web-based application is designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating records mailroom processing time. Also, because the requested will be asked to supply all information (menu driven format) essential to NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to contact and ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. Veterans and next of kin (a surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother) may access the application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. For those of you who do not have access to a computer at home you can visit you local library. Once you have completed the online request you must follow-up by mailing or faxing the request with your signature to the NPRC.

