



STILL SERVING

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Summer 2006 Volume 14, Number 2

31st ANNUAL FORT MEADE RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

I hope this finds everyone doing well.

This years Retiree Appreciation Day is taking a new route. Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center has graciously offered to hold the event at their facility. This means they will be able to give better medical screenings. It will be a one-day event, 27 October 2006 and will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be at the new Freedom Dining Facility and will cost \$3.55. I think you will discover that this is not your or your old familiar mess hall. Dinner will be held at Club Meade from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$14.50. More on the day's events later in the newsletter.

Due to severe budgetary constraints this newsletter will only be published annually instead of bi-annually. I do apologize for this but it is necessary. You can read more about the budget problems in the Installation Commanders message. I will try to put together a second newsletter for the RSO homepage. Yes, this office does have a homepage now. To get to it you must go to www.ftmeade.army.mil and then click on Retirement Services. I believe that you will find it full of information including dozens of different websites.

A big thank you to my staff, Tracey Davis and Cynthia Johnson for their dedication, support, and hard work. I would also like to thank the Retiree Council for their dedication to the area retirees.

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NOTICE

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Installation Commander's Message COL John O. McCreedy

Greetings to members of the retiree community. This is my second opportunity to communicate with you in this publication.

Since my last column, much has happened here at Fort Meade. The first and most important issue involves funding. We've all heard that old Army saying about doing more with less. With a \$530 million shortfall based on current spending on military installations worldwide, we can count on doing more with a lot less for the foreseeable future. As an integral part of the Army, installations are faced with unprecedented resource challenges.

Last year the installation was forced to tighten its budgetary belt to cope with a \$7 million fiscal shortfall. This included a hiring freeze, reduction in maintenance service, and dramatically curtailed travel as well as non-essential training for our personnel. While we made it through FY 2005, this year looks worse. We are \$12 million short in operating funds for this fiscal year. We've managed to save \$3.4 million but are still \$9 million short from what we need to operate through the end of the year. And while I firmly believe the Army will ultimately provide the necessary funding to pay the bills for essential installation services, in the meantime we will not have the capability to fix all the things we would like to fix or provide the full range of services that we would like to provide. There will be fiscal limits to what we can do.

Through these tough times, we will increasingly rely on partnerships and volunteers. The role of volunteers is already critical to maintaining a high quality of life for Fort Meade residents and employees. Our weekend chapel services and programs would not work without the efforts of our volunteers – many from the military retiree population. We owe a debt of gratitude to our retiree volunteers who serve as role models for our young people by passing on valuable knowledge and

wisdom from their own personal lives and professional careers.

A recent news article published in the Baltimore Examiner credited the state of Maryland as among the nation's leaders in volunteer hours. In fact, according to the Corporation of National and Community Service, Maryland ranks third in the number of hours spent by residents doing volunteer work each year, and the state's rate of volunteering topped the national average between 2003 and 2005. I know Fort Meade and its retirees make up a significant part of those statistics.

We are indeed blessed daily by the often unsung work of the volunteers who sustain and support this installation and its quality of life. As I stated at the recent Retiree Council meeting I attended, I am in absolute awe of the contributions our retirees make to maintain Fort Meade's well earned and deserved reputation as an Army community of excellence. To those of you already involved in installation activities and programs, thanks for your efforts, and keep up the good work. For those who aren't, give it some thought. There are plenty of things to be done. Contact our Army Community Service installation volunteer office and find out how you can help.

Despite the budget bad news, there are lots of good things happening here as well. In May we opened a new \$1.7 million, 5,000 square foot Teen Center. Designed by the teens themselves, the facility provides access to 10 computers (and five laptops), five flat-screen TVs, table tennis and a pool table. One of only 13 stand-alone teen centers in the Army, Fort Meade's facility will assist the community with a positive, productive, program-packed environment that is educational, safe and fun for everyone. Our teens finally have a place of their own. Earlier in May we also opened our new consolidated dining hall, Freedom Inn. This \$9.5 million, 27,550 square foot facility can serve up to 1.200 service members per meal and provides our military personnel with finest in dining experience (to include a food court and buffet-style arrangements, as well as five separate eating areas). It's

a long way from the old chipped beef on toast, metal tray mess hall experience that many of our retirees remember. Please join me for lunch on Oct. 27 during Retiree Appreciation Days, or for Thanksgiving Dinner in November. Meanwhile progress continues on our privatized housing project to provide a better quality of life for our service members and their families residing on post.

In May I approved several changes to Fort Meade's access control policy that may affect our retiree population. These changes should make the process more convenient for those visiting the installation. Retirees can now gain access to the post without a DoD decal on their vehicle as long as they have an approved DoD ID card. However, a decal may be required due to security considerations in the event the Force Protection Condition (FPCon) level increases. Visitors seeking oneday passes no longer need proof of insurance, although it's still required for vehicle registration on post. A valid operator's license and proof of current vehicle registration are still required.

On a related matter, the Mapes Road and Maryland Route 175 gate will close for renovation later this summer. The Llewellyn Avenue and Route 175 gate will open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the interim. All other gates will maintain current hours and days of operation. The Visitor Control Center on Reece Road is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Let me encourage our retirees to take advantage of some of the many fine programs, events and activities we provide at Fort Meade. Once again, the Army Field Band will offer two free evening summer concerts for your musical enjoyment. The first is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 13 and features the Jazz Ambassadors. The second is set for Saturday, Aug. 26 and features full band playing the 1812 Overture. Both start at 7 p.m. and the location is the corner of Cooper Avenue and Mapes Road. So bring some lawn chairs, a blanket and ice chest and listen to the Army's finest musicians play a medley of patriotic and contemporary arrangements. Check the weekly paper, Soundoff! for more details. Hope to see you there.

And don't forget to come out for this year's annual Retiree Open House, scheduled on Friday, Oct. 27. As usual, there will be lots of important, interesting and useful information for retirees and their families. You don't want to miss it. Again, look for more details in this publication and the Soundoff!

In conclusion, let me reiterate something I wrote in one of my previous Soundoff! columns. These are extraordinary times that will require extraordinary efforts and sacrifice. Our top priority is to continue supporting the Global War on Terrorism while still delivering the goods and services our installations require to maintain mission readiness and the well-being of our service members and their families. Our efforts to control costs, pursue efficiencies and implement saving efforts are vital to mitigating the impact of these reductions on those who rely on the post for support and services. I am confident that our retirees, who pride themselves on "still serving", will do their part to help us meet the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to working with you all.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS Colonel Bert L. Rice, USA (Ret)

Greetings Fellow Retirees and Families! Recent Memorial Day events around the country highlighted the significance of the day. Many veterans and patriotic Americans participated in a variety of events. While many Americans understand the meaning of Memorial Day which is set aside to "remember our fallen comrades" and give thanks for their sacrifice, many Americans still do not get it. Yet, all Americans enjoy a measure of freedom that many nations crave and their people fight and die for. I think we need to do more to educate the children and parents of America to perpetuate the significance of Memorial Day! Freedom is not free!

We will celebrate Independence Day on July 4th, which is another opportunity for us to remember those early freedom fighters and to really celebrate our independence! And, then on November 11, Veterans Day, we will remember the noble contribution of all veterans! Indeed, we are a fortunate Nation with a long list of patriotic American heroes!

I am excited about the next Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) which will be held on Friday, 27 October 2006 at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center on Llewellyn Avenue. Specific details are available elsewhere in this Still Serving Newsletter but I ask that you read about it and plan to join us for this very worthwhile program. The Kimbrough Commander and her staff plan to provide outstanding support to retirees and all of the RAD events. So, again, please mark your calendar and plan to spend the day with us on Friday, 27 October at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center! Events include screening activities and organizational displays at Kimbrough, lunch at the new troop Freedom Inn Dining Facility, and a fun evening at Club Meade with dinner and door prize drawings! Please register as soon as possible, which will facilitate final planning and coordination.

I want to keep my comments short but still mention a few items that should be of interest to you. At our Retiree Council meeting on Saturday, 3 June. we learned from Mr. Leo Bitner, AAFES Area Manager, that he and his staff are working hard to improve customer service and to make you, the customer, aware of special sales, the use of the "Buddy List" whereby if you go online you can receive frequent messages announcing special sales, and the need for your comments to help improve overall AAFES operations. Be watchful for more information regarding these and for other useful bits of good news from AAFES. So, do take advantage of upcoming sales at AAFES!

Mr. Frank Macias, Commissary Manager, mentioned "early bird" shopping that commences at 0700 and ends at 0900 hours for anyone who needs to purchase 15 items or less. A case lot sale will be held in midSeptember so watch for announcements for this and other specials. We appreciate having excellent Commissary and AAFES facilities right here at Fort Meade.

I hope that all military retirees know that the Maryland Legislature passed a bill that exempts \$5,000 of military retired pay from state and local income taxes. However, this is just a start. Those of us who have worked this issue for many years will continue the effort to have all military retired pay exempt from state and local income taxes. However, your involvement in this process is critical in the process to enhance the gains made thus far. To those who have been involved – thanks, and to those who have not, please get involved and support this effort. Thanks!

Ms. Kathy Abey, a staff person for Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, is working on the Veterans History Project. She is attempting to capture historical summaries from all veterans who are willing to participate. She will setup a display at the RAD on Friday, 27 October. I encourage all veterans to share memories of their military careers before it is too late. Come to the RAD and learn more about this important initiative!

I want to conclude by thanking Colonel Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, and his staff for their quality support of a national treasure – military retirees and their families. We are truly blessed to have a supportive Installation Commander and units/agencies at Fort Meade and appreciate all that they do for all of us.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Friday, 27 October at all the Retiree Appreciation Day activities. In the meantime, have a safe, happy summer!

FROM THE CO-CHAIRMAN, FGGM RETIREE COUNCIL SGM KENNETH L. McCALL, SR., USA RET

It is with sadness that I report the passing of one of our Council's former members, MSG (USA Ret) James R. Taylor, Sr., who served with us from the early 1970s until his resignation because of health reasons in the mid 1980s. Because of his military experience, he had a lot to offer as he strived to serve both, the military retiree and their families as well as the active duty. He did an outstanding job. Please join me in extending our heartfelt prayers to his wife, Mildred, and their two daughters as they mourn his passing (7 April 2006). The family has asked me to thank you for all the acts of kindness they received from you.

As many of you have heard by now, the Maryland Tax Exemption of Military Retired Pay did pass, but not in the amount that was sought. We must accept that which we received and continue the battle to seek that which is equitable. This past Memorial Day, I had the privilege to participate in the Remembrance Service at the Crownsville Maryland Veterans Cemetery and to speak with some of the local state legislative representatives relative to the Military Retired Pay Tax Exempt bill. They all said that the "military retirees" were finally able to come together because the outpouring of letters, e-mails, telephone calls and personal visits in support of the bill, cause them to sit up. take notice and listen to what we had to say emphasizing the power/influence of the military retiree/veterans vote. IT IS AWESOME. In previous, newsletters, I tried to inform you that we could become a political bloc, but evidently you did not believe me. With the upcoming elections in our state, we have an opportunity to elect individuals that are more sensitive to our concerns. After all, we too are taxpaying citizens of our adopted state and should be able to have our voice heard. We are many and our sphere of influence extends well beyond our immediate families. BG George Price, USA Ret. the guest speaker at Fort Meade's Memorial Day service on 25 May 2006, spoke of the many voung people, 18 to 20 years old, who bore the brunt of America's battlefield casualties protecting its freedoms, yet were not allowed to vote because of their age. The law was changed and 18 year olds can now vote. Our job is to make sure that they do. Use your influence to get them registered, to vote in the primary (this is extremely important for we select the right candidate for the job} and to vote in the general election. We must get the message out and demonstrate that we are a force to be reasoned with. After all, there are over 500,000 veterans residing in Maryland.

Some of the other bills that were passed in the state legislature and are of interest to military

retirees were: HB 3 – Veterans Advocacy and Education Act of 2006; HB 114 – Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Veteran; HB 282 – Natural Resources, Lifetime Complimentary Hunters Licenses for Veterans; HB 308 – Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Organizations (also SB 227); HB 850 – Crimes – Burial, Memorial Service, Funeral or Funeral Procession; HB 1070 – Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Women in Military Service Monument (also SB 896); HB 1280 – Aid to Service – Disabled Veterans and Military Reservists or National Guard Personnel Called to Active Duty; SB 22 – Retired Military and Senior Citizen Tax Reduction Act of 2006.

In our last newsletter, I informed our readers that a team of military retirees and veterans. visited a local school in Anne Arundel County and spoke to the students on our experience while serving in the military that included both wartime and peace time activities. In an attempt to expand our program, volunteers were requested to join our teaching efforts. In March 2006, I received a letter from the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., US Senator from the state of Delaware, thanking us for our efforts that were in line with his Senatorial Resolution designating Veterans Day week as "National Veterans Awareness Week" which emphasized the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to our country. I am sorry to say that I must report to Senator Biden, that to date, I have not received any responses to my call for volunteers. If your children are to learn of our contributions to history, then we must be willing to deliver the message. Our children are eager to learn.

Changing course, I want you to know that identity theft and its associated fraud are real. It has happened to me. Not as bad as for some, for I may have caught it in time. I went to one of the banks that I deal with to make a deposit and since I did not have my account number with me, she asked for my social security number to access my account. Guess What? On the screen was my name and that of another that I did not know, who had used my SSN to take out a commercial loan. Action to resolve this issue continues and all of the proper authorities have been notified. Whether a loan officer inadvertently made an error (by choice or by chance??), I do not know, but I would like to share with you that the next time that you go to your bank or financial institution, have them access your accounts using your social security number. You may be surprised.

At the Council's last meeting on 3 June 2006, our 100th, we recognized two of our council members, COL (USA Ret) Edwin J. Wolf, who celebrated his 99th birthday in May 2006, and CPT (USA Ret) Arthur N. Rogers III, who recently resigned from the Council. They were presented with the Commander's Award of Excellence Medal for their outstanding and unselfish service to the Army and the retired military community. COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Garrison Commander, made the presentation. Their contributions were both memorable and invaluable.

Our commissary and Post Exchange have made many improvements, some of which are on-going, all in an effort to provide you with the best service and products available. The next time that you are at either facility, seek out the managers (Mr. Leo Bitner, General Manager, Fort Meade Consolidated Exchange and Mr. Frank Macias, Fort Meade Commissary, (Mr. Rhodes retired)) and thank them for their support and service and at the same time, share your concerns as well.

Budget limitations are restricting some areas that affect our quality of life and COL McCreedy is making every effort to ensure that the impact is negligible. Your assistance and patience as we work through this period is requested and appreciated. He has assured us that some normalcy will return in the near future.

Please make plans to attend our next Retiree Appreciation Day on 27 October 2006. It will be a one day affair with activities planned at the Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, the new dining facility and Club Meade. It will be a "casual affair" and a fun day. More information will be provided so that you plan appropriately. Hope to see you there.

In closing, I would like to inform you of the great work that your Council members, Steve Ashley and his staff are all doing to ensure that our mission is being accomplished. They work very hard on your behalf and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service. AS Max would say, "May God hold you in the hollow of his hand". With that, I bid you adieu.

APG Retiree Council Notes COL (USA Ret) Charles M. Shadle, Chairman CSM (USA Ret) Barry Decker, Co-Chairman

More than 170 military retirees, spouses, and family members attended the APG Retiree Appreciation Day on 2 October 2005. MG Roger A. Nadeau, Commander of APG and the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and COL John T. Wright, Deputy Installation Commander were present. MG Nadeau spoke of changes resulting from base realignment and closure and services for retirees at APG. He said that while the installation will lose a large population of military it will not affect retiree services. "Nothing will go away, we have the opportunity now to see if there is a possibility to extend additional services to the Edgewood Area of APG>" MG Nadeau encouraged retirees to air comments and suggestions. "Tell us what you need so that we can do next year even better." COL Wright reinforced MG Nadeau's comments and suggestions regarding support for retirees. He added that with the possible departure of the Ordnance Center and School and the Army Environmental Center, APG will gain up to "five to ten thousand Department of the Army and contractor positions." He also added the renovations of the Post Exchange and Burger King were nearly complete. There are no changes planned for the commissary.

The guest speaker was Commander (USN Ret) Katherine O'Neil Tracy, Deputy Director of Benefits Information, MOAA. She spoke in specific detail on legislative updates concerning retiree benefits.

LT (USN Ret) Ed Kriener, Chairman of the Retired Benefits Task Force for the State of Maryland and Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs presented an updated on Senate Bill 1, which seeks to exclude military retired pay from Maryland taxation. He stated that the Governor favors the legislation. The bill was partially successful in that retirees will be granted a \$5,000 exemption. We thank Ed Kriener for the many hours of work that he put into this effort.

Elliot Deutsch, Vice President of the Ordnance Museum indicated that it is at this time uncertain just what the status of the Museum is with regard to the move of the Ordnance Center and School. There is still need for local support of this very important historical project. The museum has in the past been a prominent stop off point on I-95. Visitors have been able to see first hand one of the finest collections of ordnance possibly in the world.

Kathy Abey, representing Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, presented an overview of the Veterans History Project. An official project through the Library of Congress to collect and archive the personal recollections of US wartime veterans.

The Commander's Initiative: Celebrating the 90th anniversary of Aberdeen Proving Ground is underway with the appointment of committees for planning. It is the commanders' intent to celebrate the 90 years of APG. US Army Garrison will lead the effort to honor and celebrate the achievements of the military and civilians who have lived, served and played at the Top of the Bay. A 12 to 18 month celebration will commence about December 2006 through 2007 and continue into early 2008. The project will include all aspects of work, social and family life. This will be a focal point for all ethnic observances and federally sponsored EEO programs during the period to highlight the contributions of all those who called APG home. Information will be provided in order that all can provide input and participate in this important event. Retirees willing to participate can contact Mr. Ken Masoner (Action Officer) at 410-278-0915 or by e-mail at Kenneth.masoner@apg..army.mil.

BOWLING, A SPORT FOR EVERYONE!!!

"The Lanes" Fort Meade's bowling center eagerly awaits retirees, retirees dependents, widows/widowers to join them in a great way to keep fit. The Lanes is one of the best bowling centers at any military installation. There are leagues available. The Pin Deck Café serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Please come and join us. Our hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.; and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please feel free to use the coupon at the top of the next column.



THE LANES AT MEADE BOWLING AT ITS BEST

This coupon is good for one free game of bowling when you buy one at regular price., Individual must be the holder of a military retiree ID card or a ID card indicating the spouse of a military retiree, or widow/widower of a military retiree.

(cut along dotted lines for coupon)

FORT MEADE PHONE NUMBERS

ACS(301)677-5590
AER(301)677-4542
CAMP MEADE RV PARK (301)677-6196
CLOTHING SALES(301)662-7755
GUEST HOUSE(410)674-7700
ID CARD SECTION(301)677-9586
ITT(301)677-7354
VCC(301)677-1064/5
LEGAL ASSISTANCE(301)677-9536
PX(410)674-7170
COMMISSARY(301)677-7463
PHARMACY(301)677-8288
VOLUNTEER COORD(301)677-2491

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

The Fort Meade Retirement Services Office is located in the Basement of Building 2234. The building itself is handicapped accessible but our main office is not. However, we do have a desk on the 1st floor and will be more then happy to come up to you. If you feel that you cannot go down and up the stairs and need to see us, please call us at (301)677-9603 and make an appointment. We will meet you at the entrance and escort you to our desk in the Transition Center.



RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 27 October 2006

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.. Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, Llewellyn Ave.

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Information Booths Medical Screenings Classes on different subjects

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at Chesapeake Dining Facility (A shuttle will be provided)
Cost is \$3.55, **please have monies with you**.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Information Booths Medical Screenings Classes on different subjects

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Dinner at Club Meade Menu:

Roast Pork Loin/peppercorn sauce

Mashed potatoes/gravy

New Orleans vegetables

Garden mixed salad

Apple pie ala mode

For those whose beliefs forbid the eating of pork, a vegetarian meal may be substituted as the main course.. Please notate this on your reservation form.

Guest Speaker: TBA

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS DIRECTIONS / GATES

From North – Travel south on Rt 295 to the Jessup/Odenton exit (Rte 175). Exit east on Rte 175 towards Odenton. Turn right onto Reece Road (3rd light).

From West – Travel east on Rte 175, turn right on Reece Road.

From the East - Travel Rte 175. Either follow Rte 32 to the Rte 198 entrance or follow Rte 175 and turn left at Reece Road entrance.

From South – Travel North on Rte 295 (B/W Parkway) and then east on Rte 198. Take the circles at Rte 32 and come through Mapes Road entrance or drive North on 95 then east on Rte 32 to Mapes Road entrance.

DIRECTIONS TO KIMBROUGH AMBULATORY CARE CENTER

Coming from Rte 175 on to Reece Road, turn left on Ernie Pyle Road. Kimbrough is located at the 2nd major intersection (Ernie Pyle and Llewellyn Ave) Keep going straight through intersection and take right into the parking lot.

Coming through the Rte 198 entrance follow Mapes to Ernie Pyle Road. Turn right. Directions are the same as above.

For those who will have trouble walking from the parking lot to the main entrance a shuttle cart will be available.

PLEASE USE MAIN ENTRANCE TO KACC (ENTRANCE AT CIRCULAR DRIVE AND FLAG POLE), NOT THE SIDE ENTRANCE.

Club Meade (dinner) is located off Mapes Road.

Be prepared for delays.

DON'T FORGET THAT NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE ON YOUR CHECK FOR THE DINNER. COST IS \$14.50.

COST FOR LUNCH AT CHESAPEAKE DINING FACILITY IS \$3.55. CASH ONLY IS ACCEPTED. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR LUNCH.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS **RESERVATION FORM**

Please check the appropriate space below and return along with your check.

Mail to: Retirement Services Office ATTN: IMNE-MEA-HRM-X

2234 Huber Road

Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-5076

PLEASE RESPOND NLT 6 OCTOBER 2006.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: <u>CLUB MEADE.</u> <u>HOME PHONE # MUST BE INCLUDED ON CHECKS.</u> CHECKS CANNOT BE RETURNED AFTER 20 OCTOBER 2006

-	Number planning to attend.
	27 October - Lunch at Chespeake Dining Facility (cost \$3.55 per person, cash only, please bring with you - do not send in) A shuttle bus will provide transportation from KACC to Dining facility.
	27 October – Dinner at Club Meade (cost is \$14.50 per person) (Casual attire) ** Sit-down dinner will be Roast Pork Loin. If Your beliefs forbid the eating of meat please notate this on the reservation form and a vegetarian dish will be substituted."
	 27 October – Medical Screening* Those individuals belonging to another medical plan other than TRICARE may not be able to have some medical screenings done.
	27 October – ID Card/s (Replacement)
NAME	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	