



# STILL SERVING

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## HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FORT GEORGE G. MEADE!

### NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

I hope this finds everyone doing well.

This is the first newsletter that will be done electronically only. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we had to eliminate one paper copy in order to save money. The summer edition with the Retiree Appreciation Day information will still be mailed to you.

There is a lot going on this year. This is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fort Meade and there will be several events to celebrate it. Please look for the upcoming events in the SOUND OFF and on the Fort Meade homepage. [www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil).

The Military Personnel Division, Defense Finance and Accounting Services, Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), and the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) have combined to form the Directorate of Human Resources (DHR). It is my pleasure and honor to announce that on March 21 the DHR will be formally dedicated and named the Max J. Beilke Human Resources Center. This is being done in honor of the former Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services, who was killed on September 11, 2001 in the attack on the Pentagon along with Chief, Army Retirement Services, LTC (USA RET) Gary Smith and LTG Maude, Army G-1. Max was assigned to Fort Meade and retired as an E-8 at this installation. He was a regular site on the installation. Those of us who knew him, know he was a constant professional and the epitome of customer service.

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### NOTICE

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### **RSO con't:**

For those of you who missed the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala, it was a superb event. The Installation really outdid themselves. Each room of the club was decorated for a different period. There was a WWI, WWII, Korea/Vietnam and modern day medical facility rooms. The food was fantastic cooked by one of the top temp pastry chefs in the country.

If you noticed the banner, our e-mail address has changed. Please add the new one to your address book.

The Retiree Appreciation Day for 2007 will be held on October 26 at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center.

It will include information booths and medical screenings as last year but after lunch at the Freedom Inn dining facility we will have a guest speaker at the Post Theater and then the museum will be open for your pleasure. There will be more to come in the summer edition of the newsletter.

### **Installation Commander's Message**

This column is my third for the Retiree Newsletter. Much has happened here at Fort Meade and the coming year is a significant one for those of us assigned to or affiliated with the installation.

2007 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fort George G. Meade. The post (originally called Camp Meade, in honor of Major General George G. Meade, the Union hero at the Battle of Gettysburg) was established in 1917 to support American participation in World War One, "The war to end all wars." More than 100,000 "Doughboy" soldiers trained here during that conflict. Among them were Army Signal Corps female telephone operators, known as "Hello Girls," who later served with American Expeditionary Forces in France.

The Army's first Tank Corps School was located here and then Lt. Col. George S. Patton and Maj. Dwight Eisenhower were assigned as instructors. During World War Two, more than 200 units and 3,500,000 GIs trained here prior to deployment overseas to the Pacific or European theaters. The military's presence continued through the Cold War, Korean and Vietnam conflicts, as well as Desert

Shield and Storm, and the current Global War on Terrorism.

Today this joint service installation is home to 80 partner units (to include the National Security Agency, U.S. Army Field Band, Defense Information School as well as Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard elements) and 10,000 military personnel and 25,000 civilian employees. There are 6,000 family members residing in military housing.

As Installation Commander, I am very proud of this community and the contributions made by the retiree population. There are many special activities scheduled this year to recognize Fort Meade's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I invite our retirees and their families to attend these events. Look for more specific information in the Soundoff!

Last year we opened a new dining facility, Freedom Inn, for our troops. In December, an Army evaluation team visited the facility as part of the Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Competition for recognition in the large garrison category. And earlier in November, the garrison was one of four Army installations participating in the Community of excellence competition. As I told the workforce in one of my previous Soundoff! Commander's Columns, by being selected as a finalist in the ACOE competition, we are already a winner. Fort Meade has consistently proven itself a great place for assignment, employment or residence.

Meanwhile, the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) initiative allows for military installations such as Fort Meade, to lease out land and facilities to a private or public entity. On November 10, the Army Corps of Engineers and Trammell Crow, a private developer, signed a Memorandum of Agreement that allows the company to build two 18-hole golf courses on a 367-acre site between Maryland Routes 32 and 175. The existing golf course area will be used to accommodate organizations relocating to Fort Meade as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. In return, Trammell Crow will build an office park on the east side of

Route 175 on either side of Reece Road.

This was a momentous event in Fort Meade's history. I am hopeful we will see some benefits from EUL in the next several years. It's been a long time coming, and we look forward to working with this developer. It means that we will have an opportunity to develop the potential of the installation and consider other opportunities to partner with private industry in providing needed facilities and services that are built and maintained according to the highest standards.

Newly built and renovated homes have been popping up all over post. By the end of last year, there were 585 newly constructed homes, 625 renovated ones, 262 recently build military construction homes, and two neighborhood centers. These numbers are quite impressive and would never have happened without privatization. By the end of 2011, every home on post will be new or renovated. All homes meet or exceed standards set by the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI).

On an important matter, last October we implemented new gate hours at Fort Meade. These changes were taken in response to an Army assessment of the traffic flow and security requirements for access to the installation. The new gate hours are: Mapes Rd. /Rt. 32 – 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily; Mapes Rd./Rt. 175 – 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mon-Fri, closed weekends/holidays); Rockenbach Rd. – 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily; Reece Rd. – Open 24 hrs. Daily.

Finally, I'd like to encourage our retirees to support the Veteran's History Project. Created by Congress in 2000 as part of the American Folklore Center at the Library of Congress, its purpose is to collect and archive the personal recollections of American wartime vets to honor their service and sacrifice for the nation. These stories are compelling and need to be told. This project provides us with an opportunity to leave a tremendous legacy for future generations.

Donated collections include first-hand oral histories, memoirs, diaries, letters, official separation documents

(DD Forms 214, honorable discharge certificates, award/promotion/assignment orders, etc.) and other historical documents from World War One through the current conflicts. Items are stored in the permanent collections area of the Library of Congress.

Let me conclude by saying how appreciative and grateful I am for the contributions our retirees make to this installation. From the annual Adopt-an-Angel Christmas program to the Combined Federal Campaign and Army Emergency Relief, our retirees are generous and supportive. Your involvement and participation in our programs and activities have guaranteed our success as a federal campus providing world-class customer service. Without your continued efforts we could little more than open the gates of this post. Please know I value the important part you play in sustaining quality of life at Fort Meade. I look forward to continuing our positive relationship in 2007.

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE SYMPOSIUM**

The bi-annual Surviving Spouse Symposium will be held on June 9, 2007. Further information will be upcoming on the Fort Meade RSO homepage.

## **ID CARDS**

The ID Card section located in Building 2234 has moved to the other end of the building. The waiting room is much larger and the section itself has expanded. When you first enter the building you must stop at the customer service desk and obtain a number. This will be used to call you in from the waiting room to get your ID card. On March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the Defense Eligibility Entitlement Reporting System (DEERS) will be receiving a software and hardware upgrade. With this new equipment some regulatory procedures will change. For anyone adding family members or removing family members from DEERS documentation is still required, however, these documents such as Social Security cards, birth certificates and death certificates will now be scanned and sent to the main DEERS office in California. If documents aren't provided, services cannot be rendered.

## CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

### PHONE NUMBERS

Casualty Assistance Office (immediate assistance upon retiree's death) call 1-800-626-3317 or from overseas, call collect 0-(703)325-7990. Fort Meade Area call (301)677-2206.

Retirement Services Office (follow-up assistance) numbers are listed on page 9 of Echoes. Fort Meade area call (301)677-9603

VA 1-800-827-1000 VA Insurance 1-800-669-8477 Social Security 1-800-772-1213

ID Card Office (Fort Meade) (301)677-9586/9592 Lawyer:

Retired/Annuitant Pay 1-800-321-1080

Name:

Social Security Number:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Date of Retirement:

Retired Grade/rank:

Enrolled in RSFPP, SBP, SSBP (circle all that apply) **Did you disenroll from this plan? Yes No**  
(circle one)

VA Claim#:

Eligible to draw VA disability compensation (even if not currently in receipt) Yes No (circle one)

Receiving Social Security: Yes No (circle one) If yes, age at which first received:

Organ donor: Yes No (circle one)

Is there a living will?

### SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

### MARRIAGE INFORMATION

Date of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of marriage (city, state, country) \_\_\_\_\_

### CHILDREN INFORMATION

Name, Birthdate, Address \_\_\_\_\_ Incapable of self-support? \_\_\_\_\_

### INSURANCE POLICIES

Policy#, Company, Amount (include "as of" date) Beneficiary Agent phone #

### INVESTMENTS

Type (IRA, CD, Mutual Funds) Company Amount (include « as of" date) Agent phone #

### BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank Name Phone # Type of Acct Amount (include "as of" date) Account # (Check of savings)

### CREDITORS

Name & Address Phone # Account# Balance Due (include "as of" date) Life Insurance?

**BURIAL INFORMATION**

Who should be notified of your death

Name                      Relationship                      Address    Phone #

Do you want to be (circle one) Buried                      Cremated?

Name of cemetery where you want to be buried:

Do you want to be buried in your uniform? YES      NO

Do you want a memorial service?: YES      NO      If yes, where?

Have you purchased a burial plot? YES      NO      If yes, where?

Do you have a preference of funeral home? YES      NO      If yes, which one?

Do you want a military honor guard? YES      NO

**LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS**

DOCUMENT

WHERE LOCATED

Living Will

Current Retired Pay Statement

Marriage Certificate(s)

Divorce Decree(s) property settlement  
(from previous marriages of retiree or spouse)

Death certificate(s)(from previous  
Marriages of retiree or spouse)

Birth certificates/adoption papers  
(retirees, spouse, children)

DD Form(s) 214 (Active Duty Discharge  
Record) (for all periods)

Retirement Orders

Safe-Deposit Box

List Contents:

Will

Vehicle Registration

Vehicle Title

Insurance policies

Investment papers (CDs, Mutual Funds  
IRA, other)

Burial plot information

Uniform for burial

Medical and dental records

Real estate deeds

Tax returns

**PLEASE KEEP THIS DOCUMENT. DO NOT RETURN TO RSO.**