

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, June 20, 2015**

Council members present: Chair LTC (Retired) Nelson Laughton, Co-Chair 1SG (Retired) Thomas Shumate, SGM (Retired) Robert Richardson, CMSGT (Retired) Thomas Alley, 1SG (Retired) Lonzia Hawks, SFC (Retired) Rich Zalusky, SSG (Retired) Genaro Flores Jr., SSG (Retired) Rita Hewitt, SSG (Retired) Lionel Palmer and RSO Ms Betty Willard.

Council members not present: MSG (Retired) Nancy West, SFC (Retired) Tony Rose and DHR Mrs. Janet Dettwiler.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM.

AAR Topics of discussion:

Publicity/marketing - Overall this year's marketing went exceptionally well; thank you Nancy West. Key points for next year's planning: improve coordination with all veteran organizations and request installation Public Affairs Office assistance in local community marketing.

Freestate Challenge support - Communication between leadership and retiree council requires refinement. Support on the day of event was not to the same standard as previous years. Face-to-Face discussion to address shortcomings and expectations with Freestate Challenge leadership recommended. Team Lead: Rich Zalusky

Vendor notification/attendance - Overall attendance good - only a few organizations scheduled to attend failed to show. VA claims staff and on site claim processing a huge success. Major issues, same as past years - coordination and teaming on who is contacting whom and maintaining an up to date point of contact listing throughout the process. Recommendation: validate data collected during RAD from spreadsheet and feedback sheets, i.e. email addresses and POC info. Team Leads - Rita Hewitt and Betty Willard.

Guest speaker - Maryland Senator Cassilly was exceptional speaker; addressed state bills that impacted military retirees and veterans and took the time prior and after the program to talk with the retirees. Recommendation for next year is to have VA provide their 30 minute claim presentation, which they offered this year. Team Lead: Lonzia Hawkins

Post leadership participation - Overall support was good. Leadership at installation and garrison level conducted IPRs with retiree council representatives and provided the internal government resources from FMWR, MPO, Chapel, DPTMS, etc. to support this year's event. Issue - Commanding General's late arrival and meeting with guest speaker, Senator Cassilly, delayed the program start time by 25 minutes.

Post participation - Key services and updates for the installation were presented during the panel discussion and throughout the program. Recommendation for next year is to ask for unit/organization presentation and exhibits.

Recreation Center for venue - Good location when coupled with First Sergeant's BBQ, however, larger facility would be nice.

First Sergeant's BBQ for lunch - Good arrangement and great food. Need to factor a larger group for next year's event.

Program order of events - Good, Command General's guidance to provide update on questions asked during October's RAD received well. Only issue was late start time.

Next year's RAD - Scheduled for 7 May 2016, will be different with respect to APG being designated as a primary site; regulation change forthcoming.

Scheduled Council Meetings for CY 2015:

March 21

April 18

May 9**RAD Day**meet at AA Rec Center

June 20--RAD AAR

July--no meeting

August--no meeting

September--no meeting

October 17

November 21

December 19