DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 24th INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) and FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZN-GA-AS

21 February 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Riley Retiree Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the Fort Riley Retiree Council was called to order by the chairperson, MSG (Ret) Michael L. Heronemus, USA, at 1100 hours on 21 February 2004.

Invocation: SSG (Ret) Carroll G. Everist, USA, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: MSG Heronemus led council members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes: The minutes of the council's meeting on 6 December 2003 were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

a. Issues for Submission to the CSA Retiree Council: BG (Ret) Thomas J. Kennedy, USA, urged council members to read and think about retiree and widows' issues, such as the erosion of benefits, that should be elevated to the CSA Retiree Council. He requested inputs by November 2004 in order to prepare them for submission by December.

b. Membership Committee: SGM (Ret) Joseph A. Gilmore, USA, announced that the council vacancy created by the resignation of CDR (Ret) Halsey Hines, USN, remained unfilled. COL (Ret) Vernon W. Steinkruger, USA, had been nominated for membership but could not be present for the meeting. BG Kennedy recommended, and the council agreed, to hold the vacancy open for COL Steinkruger until the meeting on 17 April 2004.

c. Federal Legislative Update: MAJ (Ret) Max McAllister informed council members of discussions he had with members of the National Association of the Uniformed Services and other organizations concerning HR 3730, HR 3738, concurrent receipt and other issues of interest.

d. Cemetery Update: COL John A. Simpson, USA, Fort Riley Garrison Commander, informed members that only 58 plots remain in Fort Riley's cemetery. He anticipated that a new Veterans Administration cemetery would be opened north of the Ogden gate in about two years. BG Kennedy opined that an off post cemetery would be appropriate because of the problem of public access (hearses and funeral corteges) to on post cemeteries.

RSO Comments and Remarks:

a. Ms. Kathy Cunningham-Tucker, RSO, announced that the terms of membership of the following council members would expire during CY 2004:

LTC (Ret) Diana M. Chapel, USA
MAJ (Ret) Kenneth H. Edmiston, USA
SGM (Ret) Frank Vovk, USA
1SG (Ret) Joseph J. Wagner, USA
SFC (Ret) Robert E. Peterson, USA

LTC Chapel, SGM Vovk, 1SG Wagner and SFC Peterson's terms of membership were extended by acclamation for another four years. MAJ Edmiston was not present at this meeting. The extension of his membership was deferred until the next meeting, at which his interest could be determined.

b. Ms. Cunningham-Tucker invited members' attention to an information paper she prepared that addressed the status of subjects such as concurrent receipt, Combat-Related Special Compensation, the increase of SBP annuity for survivors age 62 and older, the Korean Defense Service Medal and the WWII Memorial Dedication. She said that LTG (Ret) John A. Dubia, USA, Co-Chairman of the CSA Retiree Council, would be our guest speaker at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day.

Old Business:

a. There was a discussion of LTC (Ret) Carol E. Beggs' effort to get retirees' DD Forms 214 exempted from the Kansas Open Records Act during the current legislative session. Inasmuch as Retiree Council members learned of a hearing scheduled by a committee of the legislature on such short notice, our council's Legislative Committee was unable to develop and present its proposed input for council members' review. It was agreed, therefore, that the proposed change to the Open Records Act should be withdrawn from consideration in this legislative session and be reintroduced in next year's session.

b. MSG Heronemus assured Retiree Council members that the council's Legislation Committee would have something in writing regarding DD Forms 214 by the next meeting.

c. BG (Ret) Dayle E. Williamson, USA, distributed a draft letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, urging support for H.R. 548. It was noted that he works for Senator Ben Nelson, NE, a member of that committee.

New Business: MSG Mike Heronemus requested that council members' name badges be updated to reflect elections, extended terms of council membership, etc.

Adjournment: There being no further old or new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1140 hours. The next scheduled meeting of the Retiree Council will be on 10 July 2004.

JACKSON HOAGLAND, Jr.
LTC (Ret), USA, Recorder

MICHAEL L. HERONEMUS
MSG (Ret), USA, Chairperson

KATHY CUNNINGHAMTUCKER
DAC, Retirement Services Officer