**RETIREES’ ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 3 March 2020, 1000**

**Attendees:**

Lt Col Arthur Morse, III 45 MSG/CD

MSgt Jesus Muñoz 45 MDSS/SGSD

TSgt Juan Garzon 45 MDSS/SGSD

Lt Col Joseph Tichich (Ret) Retiree Activities Office (RAO)

Lt Col Brian Whalen (Ret) MOAACC/BVC/VMC

Maj Michael Kahanca (Ret) MOAACC

CMSgt Ken Oyer (Ret) VA

MSgt Jerry Waldrop (Ret) Manatee Cove Golf Course

Mr. Marcellus George 45 FSS/CD

Mr. Fred Reeg 45 HCOS/SGST

Ms. Elizabeth Colón AAFES

MSgt Waldrop called the meeting to order at 1000.

**Lt Col Morse (45 MSG/CD):** Welcome everyone.

**Mr. George (45 FSS/CD):**

* One open item from the last RAC - an ATM at the golf course. FSS has made contact with the Space Coast Credit Union POC. The Credit Union is looking into the matter; FSS is waiting on a response.
* The golf course will be hosting Play-for-a-Day on 11 April. This is for active duty members and their families. The golf course will be closed to all others for this event.
* The library will be temporarily closed for remodeling. It will reopen 19 March. It will temporarily reside in the Education Center. There will be no computers/Wi-Fi at the Education Center; however, computers will be available for use at the A&FRC.

Question: Has anyone in FSS heard anything about the issue of being able to use the Star Card at the golf course, marina and bowling center? FSS deferred to AAFES.

**MSgt Muñoz & TSgt Garzon (45 MDSS/SGSD):**

* The pharmacy will close at 1630 on Thursday, 26 March, and remain closed 27 - 30 March, as it moves into its new facility. The pharmacy will reopen on 31 March. The new facility is very similar to the temporary facility in terms of layout.
* A copy of the most recent formulary list was distributed. Per DHA requirements, at some point, medications will slowly be eliminated if they do not support active duty members. Changes will be advertised.

Question: Has the pharmacy had any interruption to its medication supplies due to the Coronavirus, since most medications now come from China? No, we’ve had no interruptions; we have not been affected.

**Ms. Colón (AAFES):**

* Things are going good.
* On 27 March, 1030, the Exchange will be hosting its Viet Nam Veterans pinning ceremony. The ceremony will take place in front of the store. We will have cake. This is being advertised on Facebook.

Question: Has AAFES looked into the issue of being able to use the Star Card at the golf course, marina and bowling center? AAFES HQ Star Card team is researching regulations and seeing if a plan can be worked up to allow the use of the Star Card at MWR facilities. It is taking some time. As soon as the Exchange hears anything, we will let the group know.

**Mr. Reeg (45 HCOS/SGST):**

* There is a shortage of the Shingrix vaccine. Walgreens and Publix seem to be the best places to be able to get the vaccination. Remember, this is a 2-shot vaccination, approximately 2-6 months apart. See article.
* There have been rumors that the clinic will move to only servicing active duty members. There is a proposal to transition to facilities to active duty only and Occupational Health clinic (AD/OH) - **pending congressional approval**. This could take three to five years before any transition begins. For full information, go to http://www.health.mil/MTFrestructuring.

Question. If this is approved, and the transition happens, would this affect retirees who fall under Tricare for Life? It should not.

To add on to the DHA requirements for the formulary listing - some things that will be dropped are over-the-counter type of medications - Claritin, calcium supplements, vitamin D. We do not control the formulary listing. The reason for only carrying medications which support active duty members is so any active duty member can to go any pharmacy, whether Air Force, army or Navy, etc., and obtain the same medications.

Question: A retiree asked if the clinic was taking new patients. He tried to make an appointment and was turned down. Is the clinic not taking new patients? About a year ago, there was a policy change in which only those currently enrolled here can utilize the clinic. If an individual retired in California, he cannot utilize the clinic here. We are not accepting new retiree patients at this time.

Please note, the size of the clinic and its staff is based on the number of active duty personnel here at Patrick, not the number of retirees in the surrounding area.

**Lt Col (Ret) Tichich (RAO):**

* Lt Col Tichich attended the Army RAD in Orlando last month. It was similar to the event we hosted here, with some differences. It was not on a military installation. There were ROTC units there assisting with everything. The Army National Guard was directly traffic. Lt Col Tichich spoke with Col (Ret) David Sutherland, the individual who organized it. Col Sutherland graciously agreed to possibly organizing a RAD here in this area. He stated it would work best if it were done somewhere other than Patrick, due to various restrictions. That raises the issue of how to get the word out to the retiree community. DFAS no longer provides retiree mailing lists. Brief discussion followed. Wickham Park Senior Center was suggested. MTF.
* Lt Col Tichich commented on the fact that the existence of the RAC was to advise base leadership. He asked if wing leadership reviews the minutes. Lt Col Morse stated yes, wing leadership receives and reviews the minutes. Discussion followed. Lt Col Tichich asked the RAC members to consider the possibility of meeting quarterly vs. monthly, as well as how to possibly expand the dissemination of the minutes within the retiree community. Further discussion to be done, and possibly a decision made, at the April meeting.
* There are 127 volunteers on base - with a combined volunteer hours total of 13,500 for 2019.
* Volunteers have not received their 2020 parking passes.
* There is a perception on the base that volunteers should not be used because they are taking a paying job away from someone, or if a volunteer is used, an organization will lose a position. Or that volunteers cannot answer phones. Lt Col Tichich will speak with Mr. George after this RAC.

**Lt Col (Ret) Whalen (MOAACC) and BVC/VMC:**

BVC/VMC:

* On 23 February, the Iwo Jima Remembrance ceremony was attended by three Marine veterans who landed on Iwo Jima.
* On 7 March, there will be a last Naval battle of the Revolutionary War celebration at the VMC from 1000-1200. This is sponsored by the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution. There will be a parade of colors, period dress, and refreshments. For more information, contact Mr. Donn Weaver or Mr. Doug Bisset at (321) 453-1776. See attached flyer.
* The Space Coast Honor flight Stars and Stripes Evening honoring veterans will be on 14 March, at the Muscle Car Museum on Sarno Road, from 1700-2000. Tickets start at $100 per person and support Honor Flight. You may purchase tickets in advance via e-mail at treasurer@shoinorflight.org or by calling (321) 759-1063.
* The Mission in America Project Call to Honor #24 ceremony will be at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmoor on Thursday, 26 March, from 1000-1100. Practice will be on Wednesday, 25 March, at 1500. Volunteers call will be 1 March. Call Mr. Donn Weaver or Mr. Chip Hanson at (321) 453-1776, ext. 5, for more information.
* On 19 February, Florida official designated the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Appreciation Day. On 26 March, there will be a Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day event at the VMC at approximately 1600. Check the veteransmemorialcenter.org website for more information.
* On 28 March - at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, from 1000-1100, is the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration and Welcome Home event.
* The 25th Annual Central Brevard VMC Stand Down - Then Stand Up event will be held at the Cocoa Armory from 0730-1400 on Saturday, 11 April. Set up will be done on 10 April, from 1200-1700. See attached flyer. Focus of the event is to get jobs for veterans. For more information, or to volunteer for this event, contact Mr. Donn Weaver or Mr. Don Pearsall at (321) 453-1776, ext. 5.

MOAACC:

* Mr. Matt Susin, Brevard School Board member, requested MOAACC and all MOAA Chapters in Florida to reach out to Florida legislators to approve an important new law. Recently, the State of Florida created a bill requiring all public high school students to participate in selected courses aimed at non-college degree programs. The vocational courses students may take to meet the requirement have to be career potential learning. The JROTC program was not listed, and therefore, some cadets have been forced to leave the program. Brevard County has the highest percentage of JROTC cadets to student population in the state.
* On 22 February, MOAACC participated in Ft. Stewart’s RAD. It was well attended and well supported by the Army. Mr. Mark Overberg, from the Department of the Army Retirement Services attended as well. He mentioned a website myairforcebenefits.altess.army.mil which has many transition and survivor related information.
* Our monthly luncheon will be on 17 March, 1130 in Colony Hall at the IRCC. Our guest speaker is Dr. Larry Barton, Professor of Crisis Management and Public Safety at UCF. The topic will be the New Dynamics of Violence in Society. Make your reservations now at www.moaacc.org. Cut-off date to sign up is 12 March.
* On 19 March, 0830, in the At Ease Club of the IRCC, COL (Ret) Steve Bond will give a presentation on “Remembrances of Operation Just Cause.”
* The “Investing in our Future” webinar will be on 8 April, at 2000. Please register at http://bit.ly/2ULBO8D. By registering, you will receive access to all the handouts which will be provided. This webinar will cover the topics of savings, managing debt, growing money and how to invest. Note: Another member commented the website is in error, you may have to try another.
* Space Coast Honor Flight is looking for Guardian escorts. The Honor Flight mission is to take WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans to visit war memorials in Washington D.C. There are seven flights scheduled for 2020. Please visit www.SpaceCoastHonorFlight.org for more details.
* The MOAACC scholarship season is open. The window opened in January and will close 15 June. The application is on-line at www.moaacc.org. Please pass this information to anyone who is eligible. The scholarship luncheon will be in July.

**CMSgt (Ret) Oyer (VA):**

* Brevard County retiree military deaths in February totaled 10. This consisted of 3 Air Force, 1 Army, 4 Navy, 1 Marine and 1 unidentified officer. Information on the unidentified offer did not reveal if he was a retired veteran.
* The VA clinic in Viera services about 30,000 veterans. Perhaps we can post flyers there directing retirees to check out the retiree website here at Patrick, as well as the RAC minutes. Or perhaps provide them with a flyer with the link to the website.

**MSgt (Ret) Waldrop (Manatee Cover Golf Course):**

* COL (ret) Lauricella attended the Ft. Stewart RAD. He found out Ft. Stewart has established a retiree military veteran casualty assistance officer. It is a pilot program the Army has picked up. Please note, there is a 31 March deadline for those interested in volunteering.
* Our dine tourney will be 25 March. Come out and play 9-holes then have dinner at the club house. This is limited to the first 32 people who sign up.
* 21 March is our Demo Day and Swap Meet. If you have golf equipment you no longer use, bring it out and swap it. Try out some new clubs, etc. This will be from 1000-1400.
* Our golf championship will be 28-29 March
* There were 4,578 players in February; 1,000 were civilians.

NOTE: April may, possibly, be the last RAC meeting with minutes. As a retiree, veteran or spouse, if you appreciated these minutes and this path to send concerns to the base commanders, and you do not wish to see the RAC disbanded, please send your comments to the RAO Director, Joe Tichich, at PAFB.rao@gmail.com.

The RAC is held the first Tuesday of every month. The next RAC will be on Tuesday, 7 April, 1000, in Bldg. 423, Room S-125. The meeting was adjourned at 1100.