



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER**  
**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH TEXAS**

11 Oct 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE (DAF) RETIREE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: 2024 DAF Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

1. The DAF Retiree Council met 11-13 June 2024 at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

11 June 2024:

2. Lt Col Caroline Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, gave a virtual briefing to the group about retention initiatives, care solutions for Airmen, Guardians, and families, and provided an update on recruiting.

3. Major General Jefferson O'Donnell, Commander of the Air Force Personnel Center, gave an opening welcome to the council members. Major General O'Donnell asked the group to consider how the retiree community can help with retention prior to retirement and the importance of emphasizing and understanding the benefits of retirement for members and their families.

4. Ms. Sheila Echols, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Retired and Annuitant Pay, updated the council on the DFAS "AskDFAS" website wizard deployed for uploading documents and reporting a death.

5. The military coalition was represented by Ms. Karen Ruedisueli, Director of Health Affairs and Government Relations, Air & Space Forces Association; Col (Ret) Stuart Pettis, Director of STEM Education Programs, Military Officers Association of America; and CMSgt (Ret) Wendy Thi, Trustee with Air Force Sergeants Association, and all briefed the council about reforms within their agency and their priorities on behalf of retired and current members and their families.

6. Maj Gen (Ret) Robert M. Worley represented the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and informed the council about the Home Loan Guarantee, burial benefits, pension & fiduciary, Warrior Training Advancement Course (WARTAC), and Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development (OTED). He also provided an overview of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) ACT of 2022, which included enrollment eligibility and healthcare updates.

7. Lt Gen (Ret) Darrell Jones provided a brief on Blue Skies of Texas (original name was Air Force Village) and the two campuses in San Antonio. The campuses are senior living facilities for retirees in need and are official charities supported through the Air Force Assistance Fund.

Gen Jones encouraged all RAOs to share the information with their respective retiree community about this impactful facility.

8. Old Business review: DMDC Address Finder MOU – DPFF has completed the MOU and the document is currently being routed internally through DMDC for approval. DPFF routinely remains in contact with DMDC reference the MOU status.

9. New Business for 11 June 2024:

- a. Issue 2024-01 There exists a disconnect between local Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and RAOs regarding obtaining and delivering accurate VA information. RAOs are encouraged to make connections with the local VSOs to ensure dissemination of accurate benefit information by the RAOs. The VA website is very useful and is suggested for reference.
- b. Issue 2024-02 If an RAO is near an Army or Joint Base, the Army Retiree Services Office can provide address finder information until the DAF/DMDC MOU is in place.

12 June 2024:

10. Gen David Allvin, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, opened the day with a video message of support and encouragement to the council members. Gen Allvin thanked the group for their advocacy and dedication in continuing to serve the Air and Space Force retired members and families.

11. SMSgt (Ret) Court Van Sickler briefed the group on the Honor Flight organization. Established in 2005, its mission is to transport veterans to Washington DC memorials to honor and celebrate them for their service and sacrifices, now expanded to veterans of all wars, not just WWII veterans. There are 128 hubs nationwide.

12. Mr. Michael Leo, My Air Force Benefits Liaison Officer, briefed the group on updates to the website and the new retiree benefits calculator tool that's been added.

13. Defense Health Agency (DHA) presented virtually:

- a. Ms. Kelly Zim, Assistant Director, Healthcare Division and Ms. Anne Breslin briefed on Tricare Health Plans. Topics covered were TRICARE benefits, with new beneficiary tools available.
- b. Mr. Edward Norton, Chief of Pharmacy Operations briefed on new generation regions to include overseas and the new claims portal for filing from overseas.

14. New Business for 12 June 2024:

Issue 2024-03 There was a discussion by all council members regarding administration and funding of RAOs. To learn more about acquiring necessary resources, Chief Olsen,

Area I representative, encouraged the group to get to know and establish a good working relationship with the wing commander and team. RAOs need to “sell” it and provide data so the installation commander can see the value of the RAO to local retirees and the value of local retirees and provide for the base and active military/families (i.e. volunteers).

13 June 2024:

15. Mr. Jack Hebdon, Journey of Flight representative, informed the council members of the Heritage Flight Group (emphasizing Enlisted Heritage) and the museum facility in San Antonio. He encouraged the members to spread the word because donations are needed to get the museum up and running.

16. Mr. Ed Yoder, Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) representative, briefed the members about the online Uniformed Services Identification Card (USID) renewal and program updates on ID cards.

17. Col (Ret) Andrew Weaver, Vice President of Community Outreach with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) presented a briefing on changes and updates within the AAFES facilities. One of those initiatives is collaborating with AT&T and Verizon to provide new cell phone towers in certain locations to improve the communication capabilities for service members and their families.

18. New Business for 13 June 2024:

- a. Issue 2024-4 RAO Support (Lt Col Lannefeld, CMSgt Felton, CMSgt McCauslin) Initial Recommendations: Empower RAOs with funding and securing office space, more top-down support.
- b. Issue 2024-5 Budget/Finance (Lt Gen Roberson, CMSgt McCarty, Capt Mayfield) Initial Recommendations: For future annual council meetings, AFPC offer breakfast in the meeting room each day, acquire bus transportation on all days.
- c. Issue 2024-6 Randolph Brooks Navy Federal Credit Union; sign over bank account from AFPC staff to council treasurer. (This was successfully accomplished during the council meeting).
- d. Issue 2024-7 RAO Desk Guide re-write (CMSgt Olsen, MSgt Cox, MSgt Chavez, MSgt Aquaviva) Initial Recommendations: Remove items like FGE that, while it pertains to retirees, is also for a larger audience; add a name to the cover; return to the older version in some categories.
- e. Issue 2024-8 DAFI 36-3106 re-write (MSgt Ramirez, Col Hinman, CMSgt Lindgren) Initial Recommendations: Discuss a way to educate RAOs, commanders, etc on the DAFI.

- f. Issue 2024-9 Meeting Plans for 2025 (Lt Col Hunter, Brig Gen Potter, TSgt Ferrell)  
Initial Recommendations: Look at an earlier meeting time next year, May was suggested, investigate if it is possible to hold the meeting elsewhere/off post, consider having a group dinner off post next year instead of a social, consider having briefers from Five and Thrive, DC Vietnam Wall Memorial, DECA (alternate years between DECA and AAFES), Enlisted Village, Texas regional state liaisons to D.C., Space-A travel update, USAA marketing, blended retirement, and someone that can speak about demographics of the retired population of the Department of the Air Force.

19. The 2024 Annual Retiree Council was adjourned.



DARRYL L. ROBERSON, Lt Gen, USAF Ret  
Co-Chairman, Retiree Activities Council

Attachments:

1. Agenda

Attendee List:

- a. Lt Gen Darryl Roberson, Co-Chairman
- b. CMSgt Carl W. Olsen, Area I representative – Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington.
- c. MSgt Eduardo “Eddie” Ramirez, Area II representative - California
- d. CMSgt James R. McCarty Jr., Area III representative - Arizona and New Mexico
- e. Lt Col John S. Lannefeld, Area IV representative - Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming
- f. Col Michael T. Hinman, Area V representative - North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin
- g. CMSgt Jon R. Lindgren, Area VI representative – Texas
- h. MSgt Cindy Cox, Area VIII representative - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
- i. CMSgt Rita Felton, Area IX representative – Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee
- j. Capt Edward Mayfield, Area X representative - Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and Panama)
- k. Lt Col Barbara Hunter, Area XI representative – Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia
- l. MSgt Richard Chavez, Area XII representative – Delaware, District of Columbia, and Maryland
- m. MSgt Vincent Acquaviva Jr., Area XIII representative - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont
- n. CMSgt Amberine Rice, Area XIV representative - Pacific Region (includes Alaska and Hawaii)
- o. Brig Gen Charles Potter, member-at-large
- p. CMSgt John “Doc” McCauslin, member-at-large
- q. Suzanne Schwartz, member-at-large
- r. TSgt Christopher Ferrell, member-at-large

Not Present:

- s. CMSgt No 17 of the Air Force, James Cody
- t. CMSgt James Barrante Area XV representative – Atlantic Region (includes Europe and The Azores)
- u. CMSgt Stephen Francis, Area VII representative – Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma