



Rocky's Retiree Round-Up/January 2016

Ft Stewart/HAAF Retiree Council

Greetings Fellow Soldiers for Life; Happy New Year and welcome to 2016!. We hope that your Holidays were spent relaxing with family and friends and were filled with joy. Your Retiree Council had a very productive meeting at the end of September with the primary focus being the development of issues affecting Army retirees for submission to the Chief of Staff Army (CSA) Retired Soldier Council. The Council identified eleven issues that were approved by the Fort Stewart Garrison Commander and forwarded to Department of the Army. The CSA Council meets in April so we will report the results of that meeting in a future newsletter.

Plans have been finalized for the annual Fort Stewart Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) to be held on Saturday, 20 February 2016 in Orlando at the University of Central Florida, CFE Arena/The Venue, 12777 Gemini Blvd North. All Soldiers and their families are invited to attend. Registration begins at 0800 hours with the program beginning at 0900 hours. You may preregister at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-retiree-appreciation-day-tickets-19551708687>. Speakers will include MG James Rainey (or his designated representative), Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division and former Sergeant Major of the Army (R) Raymond F. Chandler III. Additionally, there also will be information

briefings by DA Retirement Services Office, Defense Accounting and Finance Service (DFAS), TRICARE, Department of Veterans Affairs and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). These agencies, as well as many others, will be available after the formal program for individual consultation. Finally, there will be an opportunity to obtain a replacement ID card, if needed.

If you have a question or concern that you want addressed during this year's RAD please send it to us in advance. We will do our best to get your questions to the appropriate agency and request a reply prior to the day of the RAD.

As Co-Chairs for the Council and on behalf of the entire Council we want to extend our sincere best wishes for a Healthy and Happy 2016 and we hope to see you at the RAD on 20 February!

COL (R) Gerald Thompson, Council Co-Chair (Officers Affairs)

CSM (R) Tommy A. Williams, Council Co-Chair (Enlisted Affairs)

Co-chairs:
COL (R) Gerald Thompson
CSM(R) Tommy Williams

Members:
Larry Burnette COL (R) Bradenton, FL
James Papritan COL (R) Viera, FL
Peter Hoffman COL (R) Savannah, GA





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Rosemary Nelson COL (R), Merritt Is, FL
Paul Farineau COL (R), The Villages, FL
Karen Niagara LTC (R), Jacksonville, FL
Lee Kichen LTC (R), Sarasota, FL
Bob Letendre CW5 (R), Winter Springs, FL
Jeff Ashmen CSM (R), Hinesville, GA
Michael Balch CSM (R), Pembroke Pines, FL
Ricky Burts CSM (R), Deland, FL
Major Stroupe SGM (R), Bronson, FL
Fredrick Hankerson SFC (R), Winter Park, FL
Anthony Laury SFC (R), Middleburg, FL
Sandra Brown SFC (R), Cutler Bay, FL
Dwight Fields SSG (R), Bronson, FL

Stewart/HAAF Retiree Corner

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE, Saturday-Jan. 8:
In support of its annual Bring One for the Chipper campaign, Keep Fort Stewart-HAAF will be collecting live Christmas Trees from Saturday-Jan. 8. Collection bins will be located in the PX parking lots on Fort Stewart and HAAF. The trees will be used either as fish and wildlife habitats throughout the Installation or will be mulched for use at the Fort Stewart Central Energy Plant. For more information, please call 912-767-6573/2188.

COMMISSARY ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS, through Feb. 12:

The Scholarships for Military Children Program will be accepting applications from eligible students through Feb. 12 at the Fort Stewart Commissary. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every

commissary location where qualified applications are received. Additional recipients will be selected based on a prorated basis, so more scholarships will be awarded at those commissaries with larger applicant numbers. To download the application or to read more information for qualifications, visit: <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. If you have any questions, then please contact Priscilla Echols, 912-767-2076.

Tax Assistance

Our trained and dedicated staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Your tax return is filed electronically and if a refund is due you will usually receive it within seven to ten business days. Hours of operation 8:30am to 4:00pm. Fort Stewart office is 1791 Gulick Ave, Bldg 709(next to Popeye's) 912-767-1040. Hunter Army Airfield office is 638 Horace Emmet Wilson Blvd, Bldg 1211, 912-315-3675. Walk-in and drop-off services available, appointments available on case-by-case basis.

MWR

WALT DISNEY WORLD MILITARY SALUTE TICKETS AVAILABLE STARTING JAN. 3:

Walt Disney World Military Salute 2016 tickets will become available Jan. 3, 2016 at Stewart/Hunter Leisure Travel offices. They can be used until Dec. 19, 2016. The price for a four-day Military ticket with the Park





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Hopper Option for themselves and up to five family members or friends is \$196 each. Purchasers can add the Water Park Fun & More option for \$34 each. Active and retired U.S. Military, including members of the Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists are eligible for the Military Salute tickets. Patrons are asked to check blackout dates before planning Disney vacations. Hours for the Stewart office (912-767-2841), located in PX Furniture Mall Complex, are 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Hours for the Hunter office (912-315-3674), located in Hunter PX Exchange, are 9:30.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

AEROBIC-THON & WELLNESS FAIR AT STEWART, Jan. 9:

Sample various aerobic style classes during the Aerobic-Thon & Wellness Fair starting at 9 a.m. Jan. 9 at Newman Fitness Center. Demonstrations include kick-boxing, step, Zumba, line-dancing, Pilates and much more. The health fair features fitness assessments including body fat measurement, nutritional information, health screenings and more. For more information, call 912-767-3031.

DANCE FITNESS PARTY & MINI-HEALTH FAIR AT HUNTER, Jan. 23:

Join us from 10 a.m. –1 p.m. Jan. 23 at Tominac Fitness Center for a Dance Fitness Party & Mini-Health Fair featuring group fitness classes, Zumba and Bounce. Health assessments, nutritional information and screenings offered at no charge. For more information, call 912-315-5078.

DIVE IN MOVIE AT HUNTER, Jan. 29:

See "Inside Out", a Disney PIXAR animated movie, rated PG, while swimming or floating

in the Tominac Fitness Center Indoor Pool from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 29. There's no charge. For more information, call 912-315-5078.

RUN TO BRUNCH 5K, Jan. 30:

Register by Jan. 28 for the untimed Run to Brunch 5K Walk/Run from 9 a.m. until noon Jan. 30, beginning at the Club Stewart Parking Lot. The event is geared toward all ages and fitness levels and ends in a brunch. Each registered participant receives a race bib, event shirt and one brunch buffet ticket. Regular registration is \$30. The cost of registration is \$40 on Jan. 29 and the day of the event. For more information, call 912-767-2515.

FORT STEWART/HUNTER AAF CRUISE 2, Oct. 30 – Nov. 6, 2016:

Register by Jan. 12 for this 7-Day Western Bahamas cruise leaving from Port Canaveral. Cost is \$547.74 per person (inside rooms), \$637.74 (ocean view rooms), and \$807.74 (balcony). First deposit \$25 per person, non-refundable due by Jan. 12. Second deposit of \$250 due June 1 and final payment due Aug. 12, 2016. Price does not include transportation to port or gratuity. For more information, call 912-767-2841 (Stewart) or 912-315-3674 (Hunter).

MEINHARDT VINEYARDS & WINERY TRIP, Jan. 30:

Visit the Meinhardt Vineyards & Winery in Statesboro, Ga., with Leisure Travel at 3 p.m. Jan. 30 for a tour and tasting. Adults only. The cost is \$25 per person. Later that evening, join the group for dinner (at your own expense). Registration will continue until Jan. 25. For more information, call 912-





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767-2841 at Stewart or 912-315-3674 at Hunter. For more information, call 912-435-8061 or 912-767-4316.

FUN IN THE SMOKEY MOUNTAINS TRIP, Feb. 12-14, 2016:

Registration ongoing until Jan. 25 for the Leisure Travel trip to Gatlinburg Tenn. Skiing, snowboarding, tubing and ice skating are all available at the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort. Cost of \$450 for 1-4 persons includes hotel and transportation. Additional \$50 charge for fifth person. Price does not cover ski and snow board rentals, but Military discounts are given. For more information, call 912-767-2841 (Stewart) or 912- 315-3674 (Hunter).

MacDill AFB (Florida) Retiree Corner

FEBRUARY TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE!

Tax assistance will be provided again this coming tax season in the Retiree Activities Office (RAO) beginning the first week of February. This service is offered free of charge to retirees, spouses, widows/widowers, and active duty families of all branches of service.

The RAO uses computer software to prepare tax returns and provides electronic filing, wherein refunds can be expected within approximately two weeks.

The tax assistance program is sponsored by the Staff Judge Advocate and is operated under the supervision of the RAO. Tax preparers are trained under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and are

certified by the IRS for performance at a level commensurate with most retirees' incomes.

During the upcoming tax season "February 1, 2016 through April 15, 2016", appointments may be scheduled starting Jan. 18, 2016, either in person or by calling the RAO tax office at (813) 828-0248. Walk-in service will be provided five days per week starting Feb. 1, 2016. This service is available on a first-come-first-served basis during operating hours, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please keep in mind, between 9 to 11 a.m., active duty personnel in uniform are given walk-in priority over other walk-in customers. All customers should bring a copy of the previous year's tax return with you.

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF) Retiree Points of Contact:

- **David Southerland, Ch, Mil Pers Div, 912-767-5253**
- **Melvin L. Dougherty, FS/HAAF RSO, 912-767-5013**
- **Julie K. Lovelady, FS/HAAF Asst RSO
912-767-3326**
- **Ernest Smith, MacDill RSO. 813-828-0163**

