



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

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VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC)

3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 3:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Members of the audience wishing to address the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) VIAC on matters within the jurisdiction of FORA, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment Period. Public comments are limited to three minutes. Public comments on specific agenda items will be heard under that item.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. March 26, 2015 VIAC Minutes

ACTION

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report
- b. Ongoing Local Military Issue Media Coverage
- c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report
 - i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
- d. FORA Federal Mission Status Report

INFORMATION
 ACTION/INFORMATION
 INFORMATION
 ACTION/INFORMATION
 INFORMATION

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

8. ADJOURNMENT

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

May 8, 2015 – 12:30 p.m. Viet Nam War Commemoration Event at the Defense Language Institute (Veterans arrive at 12:00 p.m.)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: MAY 28, 2015

For information regarding items on this agenda or to request disability related modifications and/or accommodations please contact the Deputy Clerk by 5:00 p.m., one business day prior to the meeting. Agendas are available on the FORA website at www.fora.org.



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2015 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Jerry Edelen, Acting Chair
Rich Garza, CCCVFC
Jack Stewart, CAC
James Bogan, UVC
Sid Williams, Mo. Co. Military/Vets
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Peter Le, MCWD

FORA Staff:

Michael Houlemard
Crissy Maras

Others:

Erica Parker, Asm. Stone
Susan Kastner, US Army

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Edelen asked Jack Stewart to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Officer Houlemard announced a full range of construction activities underway on the former Fort Ord, including a movie theater, family housing and Marriott Hotel in Marina and family housing in East Garrison. March 28th is the Dunes on Monterey Bay grand opening ceremony.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. February 26, 2015 VIAC Minutes

MOTION: Sid Williams moved, seconded by Jack Stewart, to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

i. **Groundbreaking Celebration After Action Report**

Members agreed that the groundbreaking celebration and community ceremony were wonderful, well attended events. Rich Garza noted that National Cemetery Administration Director George Eisenbach commented that this was the highest attended community event he had seen.

COL Fellingner subsequently called a meeting with the ceremony planning committee to discuss what improvements could be made in multi-party planning and how future events (e.g. cemetery and VA-DoD Clinic ribbon cutting ceremonies) could be successful. Members suggested that in advance of July 2016 burials, extensive public outreach should begin by April 2016 to ensure that human interest stories are identified. Phase II fundraising depends on this public outreach and media attention. Mr. Houlemard noted that FORA staff would work with Congressman Farr, Senator

Monning, the Cemetery Foundation and United Veterans Council to identify those local families, including families who have contacted FORA and others asking about moving remains from other cemeteries, regarding their interest in participating.

b. Ongoing Local Military Issue Media Coverage

To keep the media interested in local military issues and events, it is important to program regular articles to maintain ongoing media interest. Mr. Stewart noted that the Monterey County Veterans Services Officer should be more involved in that effort. Susan Kastner agreed to coordinate the Presidio office of public affairs outreach regarding POM issues. Mr. Houlemard will be meeting with the Monterey Herald editorial staff and will address remaining military issues and media coverage.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams reported that the City of Marina was willing to accept a variance for the flag pole, however, a necessary letter from the Palo Alto VA requesting the City to provide that variance and authorizing their contractor to refurbish and install the flag pole (with appropriate beacon light) had not been received. Federal funding of the refurbishment and light installation could be an issue.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Williams and James Bogan met with Supervisor Parker's office regarding the annual Stand Down event. Supervisor Parker indicated her support for a funding allocation, representing 4/5th Monterey County Supervisor support. Mr. Williams and Mr. Bogan have not yet met with the fifth member, Supervisor Salinas, regarding his support.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans' Commemoration Ceremony



The United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey will proudly host a welcome-home event for Vietnam Service Veterans during the Annual Language Day Event at the Presidio of Monterey on **May 8, 2015**.

The Commemoration Ceremony begins at 12:30 p.m. on Soldier Field.

All Vietnam Service Veterans and their families are invited to attend the welcome-home event and be recognized for their service to the nation.

WELCOME HOME • THANK YOU!



All Vietnam Vets rally at Lower Presidio Museum by 12:00 p.m.

For more information and to RSVP (for planning purposes), call Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs Office

831-647-7613

For information about installation access call

831-242-4030.