



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

## VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2015 | FORA Conference Room  
920 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 met with Supervisor Parker's office regarding the annual Stand Down event. Supervisor Parker indicated her support for a funding allocation, representing 4/5<sup>th</sup> Monterey County Supervisor support. Mr. Williams has not met with the fifth member, Supervisor Salinas, regarding his support.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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