HQ AFMC/AFGE Council 214 Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

2 September 2015

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

The HQ AFMC/AFGE Council 214 Partnership Council (PC) conducted its 45th meeting on 2 September 2015, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Mr. Michael Gill, AFMC/CA, and Mr. Troy Tingey, President, AFGE Council 214, co-chaired the meeting. A list of action items, the agenda, and membership roster is included. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Rocky Tasse, President, Local 1942. A replacement for Mr. Ricky Peters, AFRL/CA, has not been named yet. The union invited the incoming union members to participate as observers at the meeting: Mr. Robert Tidwell, President, Local 987; Mr. Ron Nihei, President, Local 2221; and Mr. Kris Borders, President, Local 1406. These individuals will officially rotate onto the council at the next PC meeting.

1. Opening Remarks/Acknowledgements

Mr. Randy Shaw opened the meeting with a few administrative remarks. He proposed the next PC meeting be held 26 – 28 Jan 16 at Eglin. He commented on the Joint National meeting from the previous day and said it was a good session. One tasking was identified from the Joint National meeting to obtain new data from the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey and determine if it can be used to establish goals to improve employee engagement (Action Item #15-09-01). Another action that the Union is working is to follow-up with the National AFGE for info and an invitation to attend the next roundtable meeting in September.

Mr. Michael Gill expressed excitement concerning the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey data and said he enjoyed the dialogue that took place at the Joint National meeting. Action Item #15-07-02 was closed. Mr. Gill said he looks forward to reviewing the new results coming out from the 2015 survey. Ms. Patsy Reeves opined that the agency that prepares the report, Partnership for Public Service, is a non-profit agency, and they will expect to be paid for services to help an agency improve engagement scores. She reminded folks that the Air Force already has other surveys such as the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) survey and Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (DEOCS) that are used to identify recommendations, so be mindful of where to expend efforts. Mr. Troy Tingey opined there are already too many surveys being circulated and evaluated. Mr. Gill indicated we will obtain the results then determine how/if we want to use them.

Mr. Tingey welcomed folks to the PC meeting and conveyed how impressed Mr. Cox was with the Joint National meeting on how smooth everything went. He introduced the union members who will be replacing outgoing members at the next PC meeting. This will be the last PC meeting for Mr. Monty Lewis, President, Local 1592; Mr. Rocky Tasse, President, Local 1942; and Ms. Pam McGinnis, President, Local 1138. Their replacements starting at the next PC will be Mr. Robert Tidwell, President, Local 987; Mr. Ron Nihei, President, Local 2221; and Mr. Kris Borders, President, Local 1406.

Mr. Shaw also introduced the local Labor Relations Officer, Mr. Brian Friedrich, 88 FSS/FSMCZL, Wright-Patterson AFB, and Ms. Collette Myers, newly selected Labor Relations Specialist in HQ AFMC/A1KL.

Local Partnership Council Update – Mr. Brian Friedrich, 88 FSS/FSMCZL

Mr. Friedrich mentioned several local partnership council successes. Pay and uniform reimbursement issues were resolved in addition to hazardous weather and leave usage. The dues cancellation process has been reviewed and is improving. Ms. McGinnis indicated that the Customer Services Representatives cancel the dues whenever they receive the form, and they are not adhering to the contract which states employees can only cancel dues on their anniversary date. Mr. Friedrich said out-processing checklists have been updated to include a review of the dues withholding status. Mr. Dave Robertson asked if this was just a Wright-Patt issue. Mr. Ty Norton said they have had problems at Tinker also. Mr. Monty Lewis said that employees can fill out the SF1188 any time to cancel their dues, but the payroll office should not process the action until the anniversary date, otherwise it's a contract violation.

Ms. McGinnis said there has been no local PC meeting in a while. Meetings have been scheduled, but canceled, and the parties do not meet often enough. She opined that issues are pushed aside, management is

not adhering to Command level agreements, and issues are going unresolved. Mr. Friedrich indicated the last local PC meeting was held in May 2014, and he is working to get meetings back on schedule. Ms. McGinnis said she does not agree with the local draft PC CONOPS because management representatives from each organization do not need to attend. She was fine with meeting three times per year, and the next meeting has been scheduled for 7 Oct 15. All three local unions participate on the local Wright-Patt PC: International Association of Machinists, International Association of Fire Fighters, and American Federation of Government Employees. Mr. Gill said it sounds like things are working to get back on track, and it will be good to get the local PC restarted. Mr. Tom Robinson provided clarification by stating that per the Master Labor Agreement, Command level agreements take precedence over locally bargained agreements.

Aged Comp Time Corrections -- Mr. Monty Lewis, President, Local 1592.

Mr. Lewis introduced a topic that was not previously included on the agenda. He said there is a new grievance at Hill AFB from an employee claiming he did not receive the correct payout on his aged comp time. Employees have received back pay for the corrections that were processed in May 2015, but this employee claims his payout for this year is incorrect. Dr. Fore said we will look into the situation and find out if it's a Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) error or an input error (Action Item #15-09-02).

4. Employee Assistance Program – Ms. LaRee Baumann, HQ AFMC/A1RI

Ms. LaRee Baumann provided an overview of the AFMC Employee Assistant Program (EAP). She introduced Mr. John Guliano whom she invited from the local Wright-Patt EAP Office to assist with providing insight from the base level perspective. She said the goal of EAP is to enhance workplace effectiveness through prevention, identification, and resolution of personal and productivity issues. EAP services include personal assessments, counseling, referral to community resources, health and wellness presentations, coaching for managers, legal services, and financial services. Access to EAP is available 24/7; 365 days a year. There are 17,000 affiliated counselors in surrounding communities nationwide. Mr. Tingey stated that there are limits on how many topics an employee can request assistance with at one time. Ms. Baumann said employees are allowed six sessions per each topic per year. If an organization encounters stress in the workplace, they can receive assistance as many times as needed. Managers may receive consultation on how to approach difficult situations concerning employees. Mr. Robinson commented that workplace stress can sometimes lead to suicide. Ms. Baumann stated that EAP services are anonymous, but if problems in the organization are identified, they can be addressed in general terms. Dr. Fore explained how the referral process works when an employee dials the 1-800 number. They will receive a referral to a professional in the area who can assist. Ms. McGinnis asked if the therapists have a master's degree or if they are certified as master level therapists. Mr. Guliano said they must have a master's degree in counseling plus professional certification. Ms. Baumann provided a statistical breakdown of participation and services. Numbers increased in FY13 during the furlough period. In FY14, numbers declined, but there has been a push to increase marketing this year. Dr. Fore said in FY16, there will be more work on branding the program to make sure everyone knows about EAP services. Additional data was reviewed depicting the number of employees reached during EAP presentations and the types of problems employees sought assistance for. Action Item 15-07-01 was closed.

Mr. Lewis asked if families are aware that they may receive services also. Ms. Baumann indicated, yes, information is publicized. Mr. Lewis said the union can also market the program by referring people to EAP. Mr. Rob Tidwell indicated the message is not reaching the shop floor; wingman advocates (WAs) are needed at each location; and Robins AFB has seen too many suicides. He also mentioned that stewards have been trained, but the problem is very taxing. Ms. Baumann said WAs are good at getting into the roots where they can assist, but it is not consistent across the Complexes. Mr. Guliano described the most common types of referrals. Self-referrals are on the rise, then informal management referrals, and last are formal referrals due to performance or disciplinary issues. Ms. McGinnis said that management is falsely "directing" employees to meet with EAP. An action item was taken to research inconsistencies in EAP referrals being voluntary versus mandatory (Action Item #15-09-03).

Mr. Robinson asked if counselors are authorized to speak with supervisors about treatment. Mr. Guliano said EAP may provide info about attendance/compliance if the employee gives authorization. Mr. Guliano also indicated the most common types of problems being treated are: 1) relationships, 2) misuse of internet, and 3) financial obligations. Ms. McGinnis requested that the union be invited to group presentations to employees on EAP services, and Mr. Guliano agreed to do so. Mr. Tidwell mentioned again that WAs help refer people to EAP, and WA positions are needed at Robins AFB.

Civilian Wellness Program – Ms. Judi Holl, HQ AFMC/SGPO

Ms. Judi Holl stated that the purpose of the AFMC wellness program is to build a culture of wellness and safety and enhance the overall health of employees. The Civilian Health Promotion Services (CHPS) has 22 on-site health educators at seven AFMC bases. CHPS does not provide medical care, rather it provides awareness. Services provided include cardiac risk profile screenings, health risk assessments, and health education classes. AFMCwellness.com is an online health management tool designed to help employees create a personal health profile and facilitate lifestyle changes. The top five medical conditions of AFMC employees are: allergies, hypertension, musculoskeletal, arthritis, and back pain. The CHPS program supports a culture of health that empowers the workforce to choose healthier lifestyles. With half of AFMC employees over the age of 55, keeping employees happy and healthy is a priority. AFMC also wants to keep our younger employees from developing health problems. Mr. Gill shared his experience with having his blood pressure screened. He said he was personally thankful for the services he received from the program. Ms. Holl said lives have been saved as a result of CHPS screenings and assessments. Employees who didn't know they were at risk of having serious health conditions were able to seek care before problems escalated. She said screenings are available to be scheduled at all AFMC bases. Mr. Tingey asked to have a health assessment screening set up for PC members at the next PC meeting (Action Item #15-09-04).

6. Civilian Spiritual Resiliency - Lt Col Ted Wilson, HQ AFMC/HC .

Lt Col Ted Wilson provided background on the limitations in providing services to civilians due to Title 10. He said, however, if there is an emergency in your area, the Chaplains will be there for support. No one will be turned away, but in non-emergency situations, their role is limited. He shared information on the results of the Robins AFB Clergy Summit in March 2015. A cooperative community network of 63 ministers from 16 denominations was created to identify licensed faith-based counselors. A local civilian website was developed to share information on program resources known as Civilian Airmen Resource Exchange (CARE). Employee/supervisor flexibilities are available for crisis response counseling from on-call civilian clergy. Mr. Tidwell said employees can receive 1-1/2 hours off work to receive services. Ms. Patsy Reeves asked which organization is hosting the program. Mr. Tidwell said the union sponsors the program due to the legal aspects. Ms. Reeves said it sounds like a great program and asked if other locations could develop something similar. Lt Col Wilson said the next base to consider the program is Tinker, but each base will decide locally how to develop a program based on local community resources. Mr. Jeff Allen asked if the base chaplains refer civilians to the program. Lt Col Wilson said yes, they refer individuals to the Robins Ministerial Alliance. The union sponsors the program by providing a list of ministers and meeting space, but the local clergy runs the program. Mr. Lewis asked about employees being released on duty time. Mr. Tidwell stated there is a local agreement. Mr. Shaw asked if participants were allowed to have privileged communication. Lt Col Wilson said it depends on the state law; not all states will allow privileged communication with clergy. Lt Col Wilson discussed the Wingman Advocate position at Hill AFB. Mr. Allen said we will review the funding for this position and the feasibility of establishing like positions at the other complexes/bases (Action Item #15-09-05). Ms. Reeves said there is a surge to use community outreach programs and resources. Lt Col Wilson said there is no cookie cutter approach. Plans to develop summits at Tinker and Hill are being worked. Community partnerships are developed locally based on local needs and availability. Mr. Gill said it's a great idea; we just need to balance our programs with what our budget will allow.

7. AFMC Diversity and Inclusion - Mr. Mike Owens, HQ AFMC/A1DC

Mr. Mike Owens provided an overview of the Air Force definition of diversity. He said it includes such factors as life experience, spiritual perspective, geographic, socioeconomic, education, and work experiences, in addition to ethnicity, gender, and age. An inclusive climate connects each Airman to the organization and encourages collaboration, flexibility, and fairness. An Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group has been created to identify barriers to equal opportunity in the Air Force. An AFMC Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap is currently in coordination. Mr. Gill asked for copies of the roadmap, and Mr. Owens provided copies during the meeting. Data on which schools to target for recruitment is also an important focus area.

8. Fitness Suspension in the Child Development Centers - Mr. Monty Lewis, President, Local 1592

Mr. Lewis explained the issue concerning Child Development Center (CDC) workers who have been restricted from using fitness time since January. These are lower graded employees with stressful jobs, and there is no

plan for when they will be allowed to start using fitness time again. Dr. Fore said he would reach out to the FSS Director on his next visit. Mr. Lewis said the CDC needs to set a goal for reinstating the program. Ms. McGinnis said Wright-Patt doesn't allow their CDC employees to participate either. Mr. Kris Borders said Edwards doesn't allow it either. Mr. Ty Norton said he understands the frustration if employees are never given any hope of reaching a goal and getting fitness time back. Mr. Gill said he does not want to kill the program, but he is willing to discuss strategies for establishing goals in certain areas to make sure the program is being aligned properly (Action Item #15-09-06).

9. Drug Testing Policy - Mr. Rob Tidwell, President, Local 987

Mr. Tidwell introduced a topic that was not previously included on the agenda. He said he wants to see more consistency in the drug testing policy. He said some employees are suspended while others are fired without being offered rehabilitation. Mr. Robinson said the Command MOA that covers this subject puts first priority on rehabilitation, but the practice at each base could be different. Mr. Tidwell agreed the process is being handled differently at each base. Mr. Robinson said a last chance agreement waives all of an employee's rights. Mr. Gill said we need to find out where the inconsistences are. Dr. Fore said management would conduct research and provide a follow-up at the next PC meeting (Action Item #15-09-07).

10. Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) Update - Dr. Todd Fore, HQ AFMC/A1

Dr. Fore provided an update on the status of AFIMSC. He said the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (VERA/VISP) Round III will be effective 30 Sep 15 to mitigate reductions at the MAJCOMs. A clearinghouse has been established for MAJCOM employees to be considered for Center staff positions. Over 100 offers have been made with 75 employees accepting positions. Stand up is on track for 30 Sep. Mr. Gill said this is a big step forward for the Air Force and AFMC. All AF bases will depend on AFIMSC for support.

11. 377th ABW Transfer to Air Force Global Strike Command - Dr. Todd Fore, HQ AFMC/A1

Dr. Fore said the realignment of the 377th ABW to Global Strike Command (GSC) will optimize operations and life cycle management in the Nuclear Enterprise across the Air Force. A petition will be filed with the Federal Labor Relations Authority to clarify the local bargaining unit at Kirtland. Mr. Shaw said he has requested to file a joint petition with the National AFGE office. The GSC has agreed to continue funding EAP and CHPS services for civilian employees. The Nuclear Weapons Center employees will continue to receive EAP services from AFMC.

12. Wrap-up and Awards Presentation - Mr. Mike Gill, AFMC/CA and Mr. Troy Tingey, AFGE C214 President

Discussion concerning standardization of Wingman Advocate positions resumed. Mr. Gill asked if there have been any efforts to benchmark with industry. Dr. Fore said at United Parcel Service, discussions take place at the beginning of each shift. Mr. Tidwell again voiced his opinion that WA positions should be standardized across the complexes. Mr. Gill agreed that a way forward needs to be identified.

A new issue was raised by Mr. Borders concerning the union-management relationship at Edwards AFB. He said things have gotten worse since the AFMC/AFGE PC meeting in February. There is no partnership, no relationship, and no pre-decisional involvement. Dr. Fore said he would reach out to the new FSS Director, and Dr. Robertson said he would do the same with General Schaefer (Action Item #15-09-08). Mr. Tidwell chimed in by saying that Mr. Borders is being disrespected as a union official due to the local call-in procedure required by management. Mr. Tingey said he will look into the situation and review time and attendance procedures for fulltime stewards in accordance with the Master Labor Agreement (Action Item 15-09-09). Mr. Borders requested that a letter from AFMC be issued to render the call-in procedures void. Dr. Fore said he would also look into the situation. Mr. Gill said we expect partnership to occur. He said at the Senior Leader Conference, he will remind commanders of the foundation for partnership and why its principles are so important.

Following the discussion, Mr. Gill and Mr. Tingey presented award plaques to the outgoing PC members thanking them for their contributions: Ms. Pam McGinnis and Mr. Monty Lewis. Mr. Rocky Tasse will receive his plaque at the next PC meeting in January at Eglin.

Mr. Tingey and Mr. Gill thanked all of the members again for their time and commitment to the AFMC/AFGE Partnership Council. The members attended lunch at the Wright-Patt Club. From there, the group visited the Agile Combat Support historical building, Bldg 12, Area B, and listened to a mission brief from Ms. Lynda Rutledge, Program Executive Officer, then toured the centrifuge and high altitude chamber in the 711th Human Performance Wing.

Minutes Approved By:

Michael A.Gill Executive Director Troy Tingey

President, AFGE Council 214

"Old" Action Items from VTC 25-26 Feb 15					
Al#	Description	OPR	Status		
15-07-01	Evaluate data on EAP referrals and usage.	AFMC/A1	CLOSED		
15-07-02	Request additional metrics from the survey on Best Places to Work in the Federal Government to explore possible methods for using the data.	AFMC/A1	CLOSED		

"1	"New" Action Items from Wright-Patt Meeting 2 Sep 15				
Al#	Description	OPR	Status		
15-09-01	Obtain new data from the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey and determine if it can be used to establish goals to improve employee engagement. (Action item from Joint National Meeting.)	AFMC/A1	OPEN		
15-09-02	Research DFAS aged comp time payouts to verify that the system has been corrected and new payouts are being paid in accordance with the correct calculation.	AFMC/FM	OPEN		
15-09-03	Research guidance/verbiage being used by EMR Sections for referral of employees to EAP to determine if notifications state that the referral is voluntary and not mandatory. Correct any inconsistencies concerning the voluntary nature of the program and standardize language if necessary.	AFMC/A1	OPEN		
15-09-04	Schedule CHPS health screening for PC members at next PC meeting.	AFMC/SG	OPEN		
15-09-05	Review Wingman Advocate positions established at Hill and determine how the positions are funded. Determine feasibility of like positions at other complexes/bases.	AFSC/DP	OPEN		
15-09-06	Gather additional information on fitness suspension in the Child Development Centers.	AFMC/A1	OPEN		
15-09-07	Survey bases on disciplinary action penalty for positive drug test results and use of last chance agreements and rehabilitation opportunities prior to removal.	AFMC/A1	OPEN		
15-09-08	Reach out to Edwards leadership to offer assistance and look for ways to improve the labor-management relationship.	AFMC/A1 and AFTC/CA	OPEN		
15-09-09	Review time and attendance procedures for full time stewards.	AFGE C214	OPEN		

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND AND AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES COUNCIL 214

PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING 2 SEP 2015

HQ AFMC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH

WEDNESDAY, 2 SEP 2015

<u>TIME</u>	TOPIC/PRESENTER(S)
0710	Surry Pick-up at Lodging
073.0 - 0800	Continental Breakfast
0800 - 0810	Welcome/Opening – Administrative Remarks/Agenda Review
0810 - 0830	Local Partnership Council Update Ms. Pamela McGinnis, President, Local 1138 & Mr. Brian Friedrich, 88 FSS/FMCZL
0830 – 0855	AFMC Employee Assistance Program Ms.LaRee Baumann, HQ AFMC/A1RI
0855 – 0925	Civilian Health Promotion Services Ms. Judi Holl, HQ AFMC/SG
0925 – 0950	Chaplain Services – Best Practices Lt Col Wilson, HQ AFMC/HC
0950 – 1000	Break
1000 1030	Diversity & Inclusion Mr. Mike Owens, HQ AFMC/A1D
1030 – 1100	Fitness Suspension in the Child Development Center Mr. Monty Lewis, President, Local 1592
1100 - 1125	AFIMSC Update Dr. Todd Fore, HQ AFMC/AI
1125 – 1145	377 th Transfer to AFGSC Dr. Todd Fore, HQ AFMC/A1
1145 – 1200	Recognition of Members
1200 – 1215	Travel to Wright-Patt Club via Surry
1215 - 1315	Lunch at Wright-Patt Club
1315 – 1330	Travel to AFLCMC/WN for Tour (Bldg 12, Area B)
1330 – 1345	Group Photo at Bldg 12
1345 – 1500	Tour of AFLCMC/WN

PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS (As of: September 2015)

Management Members	Union Members	
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Start Date:		
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