

Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council Historical Background

1. On 11 February 1971, General (GEN) Bruce C. Clarke, USA Retired, and Brigadier General Hallett D. Edson, USA Retired, met with Lieutenant General (LTG) Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER), to express a desire that the Army should take more interest in the affairs of its retired personnel and to suggest that Army retiree councils be established.
2. On 29 September 1971, LTG Kerwin proposed that retiree councils be added to the Retirement Services Program.
3. On 10 November 1971, the Vice Chief of Staff, Army, LTG Bruce Palmer, Jr., acting for the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA), GEN William W. Westmoreland, approved the establishment of retiree councils.
4. From 5-9 June 1972, the first CSA Officer and Enlisted Councils, chaired by LTG Harry H. Critz, USA Retired and Sergeant Major (SGM) Joe Bussey, USA Retired, met at Fort McNair. Each Council consisted of eight regular members and two alternates.
5. In 1977, CSA GEN Bernard W. Rogers approved increasing each Council to 11 members with the addition of a retired Army Reservist.
6. From 1972 until 1985, the CSA Councils met twice a year.
7. In 1985, CSA GEN John A. Wickham approved one meeting per year with a mid-year meeting with the Council Chairmen to review retiree issues. The Council membership was also increased to 24 with the addition of two US Army Europe (USAEUR) representatives.
8. In 1987, US Army Pacific (USARPAC) was authorized two representatives, but without an increase in the total number of members.
9. In 1989, the Councils met for the first time in the Pentagon. This move was to eliminate the expense of renting outside conference rooms and to facilitate the access by Army Staff speakers.
10. In 1990, CSA GEN Carl E. Vuono approved combining the Officer and Enlisted Councils into one Council with co-chairmen and reduced the membership to 18. USAEUR and USARPAC were authorized one representative each.
11. In 1997, the membership on the council was reduced to 14.
12. In 2011, CSA GEN George Casey approved adding a retired Army National Guardsman to the Council starting with the 2012 Annual Meeting. The Council's membership remained at 14.
13. In 2015, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh approved increasing the minimum number of female Soldiers required to two and changing the Council's name to the Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council.
14. In 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 13 of the 14 Council members attended the annual meeting from home using Microsoft Teams meeting software. The 14th, LTG (Ret) David Halverson, hosted from the Pentagon, meeting three briefers in person and twelve via Teams.