

USAG PACE training completed June 24

The Fort Sam Houston U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Positive Action For Civilian Employees (PACE) Team completed its initial training effort with more than 850 military and civilian appropriated fund employees in attendance.

The overwhelming critique results were extremely favorable with comments such as “PACE serves to be a valuable vehicle to ease transition and to communicate changes to civilian employees.” “The PACE presentation was professional and provided good information.” “Excellent information from CPAC, excellent presentation.”

Training covered usage of the PACE Brochure by the A-76 Operations Staff Transition Services Project Manager Marlene Nash; Civilian Personnel Issues by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) Director Randy Gibson and CPAC staff member Andy Longo; and Contracting Information regarding the Garrison A-76 Cost Comparison Study by Medical Command (MEDCOM) Contracting Personnel including Gary Hankins and Shirley Tolbert. Eugene Hill from the CPAC handed out civilian employee career briefs to those in attendance. Contact Gene at 221-0789 if you did not receive a career brief and would like one or contact him if you have questions regarding your career brief.

At the end of each of the 43 PACE training sessions there was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and make comments.

The three most asked questions and their answers are as follows:

Q: How can I find out how much I will get if I retire?

A: The Army Benefits Center (ABC) can provide you with retirement planning services and can give you an estimate of the annuity you will receive. They can be contacted at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by calling their toll free number 1-877-276-9287.

Employees are encouraged to establish a report with ABC early- - the earlier the better. Employees need to be accomplished/practiced at getting information as some retirement issues (deposit for military service, redeposit for civilian service, etc) take a long time to get squared away.

Q: Will I know the results of the Reduction-In-Force (RIF) before I have the opportunity to apply for the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) or Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP)?

A: No. VERA and VSIP are management tools used to avoid involuntary separations in a RIF. If approved, windows of opportunity will close prior to RIF notices being issued.

Q: If I am offered a job in another location, will I have to pay the moving costs or will I be allowed relocation expenses?

A: Employees placed through the Priority Placement Program (PPP) outside their commuting

area are entitled to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) allowances.

If you are a Garrison Appropriated fund military or civilian employee who missed the training, Marlene Nash will be happy to send you your personal copy of the PACE Brochure, which provides useful information pertaining to you as the A-76 Commercial Activity Study of the USAG evolves.

Please contact your organizational representative listed below for your personal copy of the Brochure. List of Representatives:

HRBC – Capt. Goding - 221- 1631

PWBC – Bill Blount - 221- 3009

RLBC - Clarence Anderson - 221-2902

CABC - James Evetts - 221-0733

SJA - Gerald Krimbill - 221-0485

DPS - Ray Acuna - 221-1490

DSEF - David Walker - 221-4967

EEO - Dr. Art Arnold - 221-0218

IG - Col. Maschek - 221-1461

ITBC - Cynthia Helton - 221-4118

STB - Lt. Col. Vrentas - 221-2560

PAO - Phillip Reidinger - 221-1151

Chaplains – Maj. Benson - 221-5004

Don't forget you can always call the A-76 Operations Center Hot Line 24/7 at 221-2439, if you have a question regarding this study.