

CONSTITUTION
FORT MEADE OFFICERS' Spouses' CLUB
POST OFFICE BOX 280
FORT MEADE, MD 20755-0280

Revised August 2010

Article I
NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this organization shall be the Fort Meade Officers' Spouses' Club; hereafter, known as OSC and it shall be located at Fort Meade, Maryland. All business will be transacted under the aforementioned name and address. The word "organization" and "club" will hereafter be used interchangeably. The use of the word "her" will hereafter refer to "her or his". The mission of the Fort Meade OSC is to foster a feeling of friendship among its members and preserve the ideals and traditions of our community through social and charitable activities. We work to unify the interests and activities of our members for the betterment of Fort Meade and our surrounding community. The Officers' Spouses' Club will neither propagate extremist activities, nor advocate violence against others or the violent overthrow of the Government (AR 210-22, para. 2-1a(2)(f)). According to DoDI 1000.15 the OSC will include the following disclaimer on all print and electronic media:

"This is a non-federal entity. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no government status."

Article II
GENERAL PROVISIONS

This organization is established under the provisions of Army Regulation 210-22 and Department of Defense Instruction 1000.15, as a private organization operating with the consent of the installation commander. The business of this club will be conducted as a private organization with no affiliation, sponsorship, or guarantee whatsoever with or by the Government of the United States of America, or through its agencies. No assets or funds of this club may in any case be claimed by said government, except through lawful contract or due process. Neither the installation nor the Government will have any liability for the actions or debts of this club and the installation commander may revoke this club's permission to operate at anytime. The membership is personally liable under the laws of Maryland and all jurisdictional laws in the event the organization's assets are insufficient to discharge liabilities for debts of, or claims against the club.

This organization adheres to the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(4), a federal tax-exempt status of a private organization (or the corresponding provision of any future United States revenue law). This organization fully supports the Fort Meade policy on equal opportunity and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. This club will not seek to deprive individuals of their civil rights in accordance with AR 210-22.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be voluntary and will become effective upon payment of dues as stated in the bylaws of this organization. Membership shall consist of Active, Associate, and Honorary members, as defined herein.

- Section 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP will entitle the individual to the right to vote, the right to hold elected office, and the right to receive appointment to committees. Active membership shall be extended to:
- A. Spouses of active duty and reserve officers and warrant officers in all branches of the Armed Services.
 - B. Spouses of retired officers, retired warrant officers and retired reserve officers.
 - C. Surviving spouses of officers and warrant officers whose military status has not been changed by remarriage.
- Section 2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP will entitle the individual to all the rights and privileges of the active member, except the right to hold elected office. Should an active member holding an elected office become an associate member during the term of office, the member will continue that office until the next elections are held. Associate membership will be extended to the following individuals:
- A. Adult relatives residing in the household of an active or associate member of this club.
 - B. Spouses of Department of Defense civilians (GS 9 and above).
- Section 3. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP may be extended at the discretion of the executive board to individuals who have been involved in the coordination of military and civilian community life. Honorary membership shall be offered on an annual basis and shall include all the rights and privileges of an associate member, except the right to vote. Honorary members are exempt from the payment of dues.
- Section 4. MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITY- As a condition of membership, members understand it is their responsibility to read this constitution and bylaws. Member's signature on the membership application constitutes agreement and understanding of this responsibility.

Article IV
OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND GOVERNING BODY

- Section 1. ELECTED OFFICERS shall include the president, first-vice president, second-vice president, secretary and treasurer. They will act in accordance with duties outlined in the bylaws.
- Section 2. A PARLIAMENTARIAN, appointed by the president, shall serve without a vote on the executive board.

- Section 3. The spouse of the Installation Commander, Fort Meade, and the spouse of the most senior flag officer may, with their consent, be designated as ADVISORS by the executive board. They shall serve in an advisory capacity without the privilege of voting or making motions at executive or governing board meetings. There shall be no more than two advisors for each board year. If the installation commander has no spouse or if the spouse chooses not to be involved with the club, then the most senior flag officer spouse may choose or designate a second advisor.
- Section 4. The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall be comprised of the elected officers, parliamentarian, and advisors. The GOVERNING BOARD shall be comprised of the executive board and the designated standing committee chairpersons. The president shall appoint standing committee chairpersons. The governing board shall conduct all business of the club, approve all major plans and policies, and be responsible for club organization, direction, finances, and operation. It will foster good will between the organization and others on the installation and in the surrounding community and perform all other duties as specified by this constitution and its bylaws.
- Section 5. The GOVERNING BODY shall consist of members of the club.
- Section 6. The ELECTION OF OFFICERS shall be conducted annually in accordance with the procedures established by this constitution and its bylaws. Tenure of office for elected officers shall be one year from the date of installation. If the assumption of the office is by succession, or by appointment to fill a vacancy, the tenure of office shall be until the installation of the new board.
- Section 7. Should a VACANCY occur in the office of president, the first-vice president would fill the office. In the case of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of president and first-vice president, the second-vice president will assume the office of president. If vacancies exist in all three offices, the advisors will obtain nominations from the governing board and the vacancies will be filled by majority vote of the governing board. Any vacancies other than the president will be filled by a presidential nomination with a majority vote of the executive board and consent of the advisors and nominee.

Article V **FISCAL POLICIES**

- Section 1. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS will be monthly or at the call of the president. A quorum for any meeting held for the purpose of transacting business, voting on election of officers, amending the constitution, or dissolving the constitution, shall consist of fifteen percent (15%) of the members eligible to vote.
- Section 2. Each active and associate member shall pay dues as set forth in the bylaws of this organization.
- Section 3. No monetary benefit will accrue to any member of this organization, except through award of scholarships or tuition assistance for higher

education. No member or their immediate family shall profit from this organization.

Section 4. The membership and fiscal year shall run 1 June through 31 May of the following year. The membership year shall run 1 September through 31 August of the following year.

Section 5. OSC cannot support or endorse, expressly or implied, any other non-profit organizations' fundraising efforts and endeavors unless the organization is sanctioned by MWR.

Section 6. The OSC agrees to reimburse the Army for utility expenses, unless use is incidental.

Article VI **LIABILITY**

Section 1. The club is required to secure and maintain adequate insurance in accordance with AR 210-22

Section 2. Individual members will be held liable for the debts, obligations, or tort damages incurred by the OSC if the organization's assets are insufficient.

Article VII **ADOPTION**

Section 1. The general membership will be informed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date that the meeting will occur for the purpose of adopting a new, revised, or amended constitution.

Section 2. This constitution will be adopted when a quorum of the active and associate members is present and upon a majority approving vote by that quorum.

Section 3. This adoption shall become effective upon the approval of the Installation Commander,
Fort Meade, Maryland.

Section 4. The Governing Board is empowered to amend the bylaws of the constitution. A quorum of 2/3rds of the Governing Board must be present for a majority vote to amend the bylaws.

Section 5. The constitution and bylaws shall be reviewed every two years, or as deemed necessary by the Governing Board.

Article VIII **DISSOLUTION**

Section 1. The Fort Meade Officers' Spouses' Club, Fort Meade, Maryland, may be dissolved under the provisions of pertinent Army Regulations, upon inactivation of the post, or by a vote of the quorum of the membership.

Section 2. Upon dissolution or disbandment of the club, all assets in excess of liabilities shall be disposed of as directed by the executive board. The

board action will be in accordance with provisions of all applicable Army Regulations in effect at the time of dissolution or disbandment.

Approved by majority vote of the general membership on _____.

Signature
President of OSC

Date

Signature
Recording Secretary of OSC

Date