



Missouri Military Preparedness & Enhancement Commission

Official Minutes

March 20, 2023

"Commission" or "MMPEC" herein refers to Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission.

Attendance		Present	Absent
Steve Ehrhardt	Chair	X	
Hart Nelson	Commissioner		X
Royal T. Turner	Commissioner	X	
Steve Wallach	Commissioner	X	
Greg Frencken	Commissioner	X	
Charles Williams	Commissioner		X
Sen. Sandy Crawford	Commissioner	X	
Sen. Steven Roberts	Commissioner		X
Rep. Ashley Aune	Commissioner	X	
Rep. Bill Hardwick	Commissioner	X	
Harry Roberts	Ex-Officio	X	
Paul Kirchhoff	Ex-Officio	X	

Staff and Guests Present

Name	Organization
Keegan Evans	Office of Military Advocate
Chuck Gatschenberger	Office of Military Advocate
Garrett Bradley	Missouri Department of Economic Development
Mike DuBois	Kit Bond Strategies
MG Levon Cumpston	Missouri National Guard
BG Charles Hausman	Missouri National Guard
BG Patrick Lanaghan	Missouri National Guard
CSM Larry Godsey	Missouri National Guard
Tony Adrian	Missouri National Guard
Nick Humphrey	Missouri National Guard
COL John Cluck	139th Airlift Wing, MONG
COL Anthony Pollio	Fort Leonard Wood
Bill Caniano	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Carrie Sherer	Kansas City National Security Campus
Becky Willard	Hawthorn Foundation
Dorsey Newcomb	Sustainable Ozark Partnership
David Pearce	Whiteman Area Leadership Council
Julius Rice	Community Alliance of St. Joseph
Randell Gelzer	Boeing
John Fredrick	Boeing

Brian Crouse	Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Don Wolfinger	Military Officers Association of America
John Glenn	Military Officers Association of America
Keith Crumley	DOD-Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman Ehrhardt and a quorum was established with seven statutory members participating and two ex-officio designees participating.

Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Hardwick and seconded by Commissioner Wallach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reports & Briefings

Maj. Gen. Cumpton, Missouri National Guard

Major General Cumpton introduced members of the Missouri National Guard in attendance and thanked the Commission for its continued support of the Missouri National Guard, military families, and civilian employees.

Major General Cumpton highlighted activity from the previous quarter to include a senior leader visit to the 5000th Blackhawk ceremony at the Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky plant in Georgia. Deployments over the previous quarter included 145 Soldiers from 294th Engineers to Djibouti for a vertical and horizontal construction mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Horn of Africa, and 39 Soldiers from B Co. 1-138th Infantry Battalion to Qatar as part of a Security Force Mission. In February, Major General Cumpton traveled to Washington D.C. along with the Office of Military Advocate to educate the Missouri Congressional Delegation on Missouri National Guard priorities and initiatives.

Major General Cumpton gave an overview of upcoming activities including a visit to Rosecrans Air National Guard Base by the C-130J Strategic Basing Survey Team to conduct a site and unit assessment to assess the suitability of the 139th Bomb Wing and Rosecrans for the stationing of the C-130J. In April, the Missouri National Guard will have its annual Missouri National Guard Association Conference to discuss recruiting goals and strategic objectives. On June 3, the 131st Bomb Wing will celebrate their 100th anniversary with a formal ball and "dining out" celebration.

Col. Anthony Pollio, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood

Col. Pollio thanked state and local partners for their continued support of Fort Leonard Wood (FLW). Col. Pollio gave an update on the status of military housing including a 20% basic housing allowance increase in October, the first increase since 2008. Official notification for new housing capital investment is pending. Construction at the the FLW



Community Hospital is expected to be completed this fiscal year, and the facility is expected to be operational by the end of Fiscal Year 2024/early 2025. Funding for 35% design of the WWII-era central issuing facility was received through the previous year's defense budget. Once 35% design is complete, future funding for the replacement facility is anticipated. Funding for 35% design was received for a new five-story barracks facility on the installation, and the program to receive funds is likely in 2026.

Col. Pollio highlighted Fort Leonard Wood receiving the Installation of the Year award by the U.S. Army's training directorate. FLW will go on to compete against winners across five other categories to compete for Installation of the Year in June. FLW has also received attention from Army leadership regarding its receiving of non-tactical electric vehicles. There are currently 16 electric vehicles on-site and 7 charging stations being installed at FLW.

Col. Pollio briefed the Commission on several senior leader visits from the Army and Marine Corps to the installation including General Brito, Commanding General, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, General Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Major General Beagle, Commanding General of the United States Army Combined Arms Center.

Mr. Bill Caniano, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Mr. Caniano gave an update on the progress of construction at the 97-acre National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency-West (N2W) site in North St. Louis. Interior work is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with full completion of the site expected by the fall of 2025. The relocation of NGA employees will take place in March of 2026. The Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency have both toured the progress of N2W. The current NGA facility will be turned over to the Air Force for disposal. NGA's facility and workforce in Arnold, MO, will continue to operate at its current location for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Caniano highlighted the work of Moonshot Labs in St. Louis as an innovation hub for the region. He emphasized the importance of STEM and STEM collaboration in higher education as a critical focus for the NGA workforce. Mr. Harry Roberts requested that the Commission have a future quarterly meeting at an NGA facility to learn more about the agency. Mr. Caniano suggested the agency's 2nd Street location as a potential meeting site.

Ms. Carrie Sherer, Kansas City National Security Campus

Ms. Sherer provided an overview of the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC), emphasizing that the organization is undergoing the largest modernization effort in its history. In addition to leasing a 1.5 million square foot manufacturing facility, KCNSC has recently purchased a nearby facility, adding an additional 500,000 square feet in capacity. These expansion efforts are a part of the KCNext infrastructure plan, an initiative through the Kansas City Area Development Council.

Ms. Sherer also highlighted KCNSC's current workforce of 6000, with ongoing efforts to fill approximately 600 open positions. The current turnover rate is 10%. Starting wages at



KCNCS are approximately \$31/hour for manufacturing and STEM roles, with US citizenship required.

Ms. Becky Willard, Hawthorn Foundation

Ms. Willard gave an overview of the Hawthorn Foundation's role in economic development including support for the Office of Military Advocate and Governor-led trade missions. Ms. Willard highlighted Governor Parson's recent trade mission to Germany and Sweden, which has resulted in business attraction and customer care projects. This is Governor Parson's sixth trade mission while in office, with an additional two to three more expected by the end of his term.

Mr. Dorsey Newcomb, Sustainable Ozarks Partnership

Mr. Newcomb gave a summary of the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership's (SOP) mission to promote and assist Fort Leonard Wood (FLW), the fifth largest employer in the state, and thanked the Hawthorn Foundation and Office of Military Advocate for their ongoing support. SOP recently attended the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit in Washington DC and also met with the staff of Missouri Senators Hawley and Schmitt, and Congressman Alford.

Mr. Newcomb provided an update on recent senior leader visits and upcoming activity, including the Month of the Military Child in April, and the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) visit to Fort Leonard Wood on May 8-12, coordinated by Missouri-West CASA Keith Pritchard. Approximately 130 attendees including spouses and staff are expected. Partnerships with Army leadership on intergovernmental support agreements to reduce operational costs are ongoing. Additional projects include continued work with State Senator Justin Brown and the Missouri Department of Transportation on synchronizing General Revenue funds to allow for the execution of construction efforts for a new terminal at Waynesville Saint Robert Regional Airport located on FLW. As well as, building community consensus to support a defense infrastructure program and an installation resiliency review through the Department of Defense.

Mr. Newcomb concluded by recommending a partnership with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency-West and Kansas City National Security Campus on a workforce pipeline for soldiers transitioning out of the Army at Fort Leonard Wood. Additionally, the Fort Leonard Wood chapter of the Association of the United States Army will be hosting its annual dinner on April 5.

Senator Crawford left the meeting at 1:49 PM

Mr. David Pearce, Whiteman Area Leadership Council



Mr. Pearce provided a brief overview of the Whiteman Area Leadership Council (WALC) and updated the Commission on the organization's progress in developing two studies on affordable housing and childcare.

Mr. Pearce highlighted WALC's attendance at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit in Washington DC, engagements with Missouri Congressional delegates, and the development of an organizational strategy to address future missions at Whiteman Air Force Base and the purchase of local land by foreign entities.

In support of the Whiteman Area Leadership Council, Commissioner Frencken gave an update on the national Strategic Deterrence Coalition and WALC's participation in the coalition.

Mr. Julius Rice, Community Alliance of St. Joseph

Mr. Rice highlighted a recent Washington DC fly-in, comprised of a 41-person community leader delegation, including 14 members of the 139th Airlift Wing, to visit members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation and senior staff of the Air National Guard. The delegation advocated for the C-130J platform and the economic impact of the 139th Airlift Wing.

Mr. Rice gave an update on the progress of the simulator facility, runway construction, and airport terminal/tower facility replacement projects. Main runway reconstruction is expected to begin on April 5. Mr. Rice thanked the Missouri National Guard for funding \$18m of the \$25m project. Bids on the terminal replacement and tower replacement projects are expected to open in early summer and early fall respectively.

Col. John Cluck, 139th Airlift Wing

Col. Cluck briefed the Commission on the status of operational C-130H aircraft at the 139th Airlift Wing. The Wing currently has four aircraft operational, with prop sets ready for a fifth and sixth aircraft.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the Wing's training capabilities as it relates to domestic and foreign partners. Col. Cluck stated that the 139th currently trains 18 countries, and negotiations with two additional countries are ongoing.

Mr. Randell Gelzer, Boeing

Mr. Gelzer provided an update on changes to Boeing leadership in Missouri. Mr. Steve Nordlund is now serving as vice president and general manager of Air Dominance for Boeing Defense, Space & Security. Air Dominance is the consolidation of most programs in St. Louis including the F/A18, F-15EX, T-7A, MQ-25, and MQ-28. Mr. Gelzer notified the Commission that the F/A-18 production line is ending in 2025. However, a potential agreement with India could extend the line into 2027. Employees working on the F/A-18 will be re-assigned to other areas including the F-15EX, where production is expected to increase.

Mr. Gelzer highlighted the importance of workforce development and supply chain within Boeing. Boeing continues to partner with higher education and veteran



employment organizations to address staffing shortages. Boeing has hired approximately 900 people over the previous year. Mr. Gelzer also noted continuing capital investment in the St. Louis region.

Mr. Don Wolfinger & Mr. John Glenn, Military Officers Association of America

Mr. Wolfinger briefed the Commission on an upcoming Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) visit to Capitol Hill on April 26 to advocate for restoring basic housing allowances to 100%, reversing cuts to the TriCare pharmacy network, and maintaining the standards and benefits to the all-volunteer force.

Mr. Wolfinger provided an overview of the State Legislative Exchange Forum, founded in 2020, and their work with the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) in the Department of Defense. Mr. Newcomb mentioned his previous experiences with DSLO and recommended that the Commission engage with DSLO regional representative Jeremy Hilton during his upcoming visit to Missouri.

Mr. Glenn informed the Commission that a seminar for surviving spouses will be held on May 12 in St. Louis. The seminar will host experts from the Army and TriCare to provide information on benefits and toxicity/exposure screening.

Closed Session

Vote to go to closed session to discuss matters relating to personnel matters pursuant to Section 610.021(3), (13) – Personnel administration regarding particular employees.

Chairman Ehrhardt made a motion to go to Closed Session.

Commissioner Frencken seconded.

By a roll call vote, the motion was passed:

Chairman Ehrhardt - Aye

Commissioner Nelson - Absent

Commissioner Turner - Aye

Commissioner Wallach - Aye

Commissioner Frencken - Aye

Commissioner Williams - Absent

Senator Sandy Crawford - Absent

Senator Steven Roberts - Absent

Representative Ashley Aune - Aye

Representative Bill Hardwick – Aye



Open Session

Vote to go to open session.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to go to Open Session.

Commissioner Frencken seconded.

By a roll call vote, the motion was passed:

Chairman Ehrhardt - Aye

Commissioner Nelson - Absent

Commissioner Turner - Aye

Commissioner Wallach - Aye

Commissioner Frencken - Aye

Commissioner Williams - Absent

Senator Sandy Crawford - Absent

Senator Steven Roberts - Absent

Representative Ashley Aune - Aye

Representative Bill Hardwick – Aye

Representative Hardwick and Representative Aune left the meeting at 2:34 PM

Mr. Mike Dubois, Kit Bond Strategies

Mr. DuBois gave the Commission a summary of the new Missouri Congressional Delegation and their respective staffing and committee assignments. Mr. DuBois highlighted Q1 engagements including support for the Missouri National Guard visit to Washington DC and other defense equities around the state, followed by an update on the FY2024 budget.

Mr. Newcomb and Col. Pollio shared comments regarding Army recruitment shortfalls and what can be done to promote military service to younger generations.

Mr. DuBois also gave an update on advocacy initiatives for CY2023 and FY2024 to include Fort Leonard Wood housing and military construction (MILCON), B-21 beddown and fighter mission discussions at Whiteman Air Force Base, and C-130 modernization efforts with the Missouri National Guard.



Ms. Sherer inquired of Mr. DuBois on the likelihood of an omnibus in Congress. Mr. DuBois suggested that an omnibus would be very likely due to budget delays.

Mr. Harry Roberts, Missouri Military Advocate

Mr. Roberts provided a quarterly update of activity within the Office of Military Advocate including Mr. Keegan Evans' award for Professional Development & Leadership, and attendance at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit in Washington DC. Mr. Roberts emphasized the prioritization of military-civilian workforce and reminded attendees of Mr. Chuck Gatschenberger's role as Coordinator in the Office of Military Advocate.

Mr. Roberts highlighted additional initiatives to include military-college credit articulation and the National Security Crossroads. Mr. Roberts gave the Commission an activity report displaying advocacy meetings that have taken place across the United States. Photos from 131st Bomb Wing Change of Command Ceremony and ADC National Summit were featured. Mr. Roberts gave a brief refresher on the defense economic impact in Missouri, including changes in Missouri's national rankings and military personnel allocations.

Commissioner Turner inquired of Mr. Roberts about updates to the Commission and Military Advocate website. Mr. Roberts stated that his office is continuing to work with the Office of Administration.

Mr. Gelzer inquired of Mr. Roberts as to a statewide military benefits brochure for transitioning military that could be used by the defense industry at recruiting events. Mr. Paul Kirchhoff suggested using the Missouri Veterans Commission benefits guide as a starting point.

Mr. Paul Kirchhoff, Missouri Veterans Commission

Mr. Kirchhoff thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Evans for visiting with the Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC) and re-establishing cooperation between the two commissions. Mr. Kirchhoff provided an overview of MVC and how it serves veterans across the state. Mr. Kirchhoff highlighted the Missouri Benefits and Resource Portal (<https://veteranbenefits.mo.gov/>) which was created as a joint effort between the Commission and MVC.

Mr. Kirchhoff updated the Commission on current and future activities to include collaborating with the Missouri National Guard on the creation of an Afghan Medallion, suicide prevention and awareness initiatives, and the establishment of an MVC program to create free wills/powers of attorney for military families.

Old Business

National Security Crossroads

Mr. Roberts provided an update on National Security Crossroads, indicating that the grant submission to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation will occur very soon.



New Business**Budget Update**

Mr. Roberts gave a brief update on the budget for the Office of Military Advocate. Mr. Roberts stated that the budget is in good order. Remaining funds were still available for the Military Community Reinvestment Grant.

Adjournment

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Frencken and seconded by Commissioner Wallach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting Adjourned