



Missouri Military Preparedness And Enhancement Commission

Official Minutes

December 6, 2022

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

Attendance		Present	Absent
Steve Ehrhardt	Chair		X
Hart Nelson	Commissioner, Acting Chair	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	

Staff and Guests Present

Name	Organization
Keegan Evans	Office of Military Advocate
Chuck Gatschenberger	Office of Military Advocate
Mike DuBois	Kit Bond Strategies
MG Levon Cumpton	Missouri National Guard
BG Charles Hausman	Missouri National Guard
CSM Larry Godsey	Missouri National Guard
COL Robert Payne	Missouri National Guard
COL John Cluck	139th Airlift Wing, MONG
LTC Jakin Waldock	Missouri National Guard
LTC Seth Everett	Missouri National Guard
CPT Brian Randolph	Missouri National Guard
Tony Adrian	Missouri National Guard
Nick Humphrey	Missouri National Guard
COL Anthony Pollio	Fort Leonard Wood
Dorsey Newcomb	Sustainable Ozark Partnership
Dr. Jerrod Wheeler	Whiteman Area Leadership Council
Julius Rice	Community Alliance of St. Joseph
Randell Gelzer	Boeing
Tammy Long	Missouri Chamber of Commerce

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Commissioner Nelson and a quorum was established with seven statutory members participating and one ex-officio designee participating.

Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Turner and seconded by Commissioner Wallach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reports & Briefings

Commissioner Nelson announced an update to the meeting agenda to accommodate guest speakers that could not stay for the full duration. The MMPEC Strategic Plan discussion was moved immediately succeeding updates from military installations, defense agencies, and industry.

Maj. Gen. Cumpton & Brig. Gen. Hausman, Missouri National Guard

Brig. Gen. Hausman thanked the Commission for its support of Amendment 5 and explained the transition process as the Missouri National Guard (MONG) becomes a state department. Brig. Gen. Hausman highlighted recent MONG activity including the return of 328 soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division from the Middle East in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. 50 soldiers from the 1/376th Aviation Security and Support BN and 125 Soldiers from the 3175th Chemical Company returning from the Southwest Border Mission and 125 Soldiers from the 1241st Transportation Company deploying. The 131st Bomb Wing supported the first B-2 bomber Task Force to Australia, and the 139th Air Wing has one Airman in Antarctica for Operation Deep Freeze in support of the National Science Foundation.

Maj. Gen. Cumpton gave an overview of the MMPEC-MONG tour earlier that morning which included the flight facility and Ike Skelton Training Site. Maj. Gen. Cumpton provided an update on MONG facilities such as the Bellefontaine (North St Louis) Readiness Center which expects \$28M in FY24 federal funding. Bellefontaine received \$7.5M in FY23 state funding, with an additional \$5M requested in FY24. AVCRAD Phase 3B is currently in design due to \$3.8M for design funds only. There is currently no construction funding, and MONG will continue to request construction funds from National Guard Bureau. \$9.33M in FY24 state funding has been requested for the renovation of Jefferson Barracks Building 26, a historic structure that could provide 37,800 square feet of space for a Readiness Center.

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

Col. Pollio thanked community stakeholders and state partners for their continued support of Fort Leonard Wood (FLW). Col. Pollio gave an update on the status of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital military construction (MILCON)



project, with construction expected to be completed in 2023. Col. Pollio also noted that the FLW airport has begun direct flights to Dallas and Nashville through Contour Airlines and that \$12-15M is expected for a new civilian terminal. Col. Pollio updated the Commission on housing allowance where a capital investment plan is currently pending from the Department of Defense (DOD).

Col. John Cluck, 139th Airlift Wing

Col. Cluck updated the Commission on the status of C-130 propeller repairs. The 139th is expecting delivery of four props within the week.

Mr. Randell Gelzer, Boeing

Mr. Gelzer highlighted the recent reorganization of Boeing Defense, Space & Security including the Air Dominance Division which will be led by Steve Nordlund. Mr. Nordlund will also serve as the senior site executive for the St. Louis region. Mr. Gelzer provided an update on the St. Charles weapons facility and the company's veteran workforce initiative through DOD SkillBridge.

Mr. Dorsey Newcomb, Sustainable Ozarks Partnership

Mr. Newcomb gave an update on transitioning service member initiatives and the planned Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) visit scheduled for 8-12 May. Mr. Newcomb thanked Senators Blunt and Hawley and Congresswoman Hartzler for their support of the region. Mr. Newcomb also highlighted recent senior leader engagements at the Pentagon while attending the Association of the US Army (AUSA) expo in Washington DC. Mr. Newcomb noted an upcoming installation resilience review, as well as intergovernmental support agreement updates, and initiatives relating to childcare, spouse employment, and mental health.

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Whiteman Area Leadership Council

Dr. Wheeler highlighted recent and upcoming WALC activity including attendance at the B-21 unveiling in Palmdale, CA, the B-2 elephant walk at Whiteman AFB, the Association of Defense Communities conference in Phoenix, AZ, and the STRATCOM changing of command ceremony. Dr. Wheeler thanked the Missouri Congressional Delegation for their continued support and gave an update on the Base Community Council's Bomber Ball.

Mr. Julius Rice, Community Alliance of St. Joseph

Mr. Rice updated the Commission on the community's ongoing C-130J initiative and airport upgrades including a full motion simulator, ramp planning for the 139th AW, and funding for runway reconstruction. Mr. Rice indicated that the airport environmental survey has been completed and new terminal bids will go out in the coming weeks.

Ms. Tammy Long, Missouri Chamber



Ms. Long provided a brief update on the Chamber's connecting workforce resource and a Washington DC fly-in scheduled for the last week of March.

The Commission went into recess at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

Commissioner Turner left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Mr. Mike Dubois, Kit Bond Strategies

Mr. DuBois gave the Commission a summary of the Congressional lame-duck session and the impact on Missouri defense activity. Mr. DuBois noted that the National Defense Authorization Act will be \$45B over the Presidential Budget Request, with the projection that the DOD appropriations topline will be no less than \$35B. Impacts to the Missouri defense economy include 16 C-130Js as part of the 139th Air Wing modernization effort, support for the initial divestment plan of A-10s, funding of the B-21 development, funding for the T-7A, MQ-25, 24 F-15EX, and 2400 JDAM munitions. F/A-18 SuperHornet funding remains uncertain.

Commissioner Williams inquired of Mr. DuBois the Navy's rationale for not seeking F/A-18 funding. Mr. DuBois indicated that the Navy is pushing for F-35C prioritization through the budgetary process. Commissioner Hardwick also highlighted the dependence on Chinese manufacturing as a potential factor. Mr. Gelzer stated that if Boeing is forced to shut the F/A-18 manufacturing line down, it is very costly to restart.

Mr. DuBois concluded his presentation with an overview of Army MILCON project funding and takeaways from the Reagan National Defense Forum in California. Mr. DuBois emphasized the importance of key committee assignments for new members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Harry Roberts, Missouri Military Advocate

Mr. Roberts thanked the Missouri National Guard for hosting the MMPEC Quarterly Meeting and informed the Commission that the March quarterly meeting will be held in Jefferson City, MO to coincide with the legislative session. The June quarterly meeting will tentatively be held at Fort Leonard Wood.

Mr. Roberts provided a quarterly update of activity within the Office of Military Advocate including a recent staff hire and ongoing initiatives to include military-college credit articulation, military-civilian workforce development, and the National Security Crossroads. Mr. Roberts gave the Commission an activity report highlighting advocacy meetings that have taken place across the United States. Photos from First Lady Teresa Parson's Military Officer Spouse Luncheon and tour of the Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot in Springfield, MO were featured. Mr. Roberts gave a brief overview of



the defense economic impact in Missouri, including changes in Missouri's national rankings and military personnel allocations. The most significant of these changes was a decrease of \$2.8B in state defense spending which resulted in Missouri dropping from #11 to #16.

Old Business

National Security Crossroads

New Business

Strategic Plan

Commissioner Nelson presented the 2022-2024 MMPEC Strategic Plan for adoption by the Commission. Mr. Roberts thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for their work and reiterated that the strategic plan is intended to be a living document.

Commissioner Williams gave a brief overview of the strategic plan, highlighting its use as a tool for growth retention in the state. Commissioner Hardwick raised concerns with the Section 1.6 Status of Measure: *1) ≥ 90% success rate on MONG NDI submissions; 2) One or more legislative adds to the NDAA and Appropriations Bill(s) per fiscal year;*

Commissioner Hardwick made a motion to approve the 2022-2024 MMPEC Strategic Plan without Section 1.6 until the section is revised. Commissioner Wallach requested the strategic plan include a color code to document progress. Mr. Roberts confirmed that a color code will be implemented. Mr. DuBois noted an error in Section 1.7 where the 139th Air Wing was incorrectly labeled the 131st. Commissioner Hardwick's motion was seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Budget Update

Mr. Roberts led a brief discussion on the Office of Military Advocate FY24 budget. Commissioner Hardwick gave his support for the office and any reasonable budgetary increase that the Military Advocate deemed necessary to fulfill its mission.

Adjournment

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wallach and seconded by Representative Aune. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting Adjourned

