



## Missouri Military Preparedness & Enhancement Commission

### Official Minutes

June 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
Mike DuBois	Kit Bond Strategies
COL Robert Payne	Missouri National Guard
Nick Humphrey	Missouri National Guard
COL Anthony Pollio	Fort Leonard Wood
COL Adam Hilburgh	Maneuver Support Center of Excellence-FLW
Bill Caniano	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Dorsey Newcomb	Sustainable Ozark Partnership
Randell Gelzer	Boeing
Grant Wilson	Office of Congressman Jason Smith
Mike Ussery	Office of Senator Eric Schmitt
COL Jen Smith	Missouri Wing Civil Air Patrol
Suzanne Taylor	Whiteman Area Leadership Council
Rep. Dave Griffith	Missouri House of Representatives
Perry Byerly	City of Knob Noster

## **Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.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 March 20, 2023 meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Turner and seconded by Commissioner Wallach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **Reports & Briefings**

### Col. Payne & Mr. Nick Humphrey, Missouri National Guard

Colonel Payne and Mr. Humphrey gave an update on priorities for the Missouri National Guard (MONG), including a change in tuition pricing by the University of Missouri System. MONG will be temporarily reducing tuition assistance for qualified service members from 100% to 50% as a result of the bulk-pricing model. MONG is currently evaluating legislative options in order to reinstate 100% tuition assistance.

Colonel Payne indicated that recruitment is seeing an uptick since the pandemic. National Guard recruitment has outpaced active-duty and reserve components.

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

Col. Pollio highlighted Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) receiving the FY2022 Army Installation of the Year award by the Installation Management Command. Fort Leonard Wood will go on to compete for the best installation in the Department of Defense. FLW has also won the medium installation category of most funds raised for the Army Emergency Relief Fund for the third year in a row.

Col. Pollio gave an update to the Commission on housing funds. Approximately \$90 million has been allocated to FLW for new housing, with three funding streams identified, including \$8.4 million through 606-B funds, \$34 million from a land sale (CY2023), and \$50 million in budget requests. In addition to \$20 million held in the FLW reinvestment account, Col. Pollio suggests around 200 new homes could be built. Additionally, FLW has received funds for 35% design of the Central Issue Facility and new 5-story barracks.

Child care continues to be a challenge at FLW. Staffing is tied to the Department of the Army and DOD levels. FLW is currently at 76% for direct care staff. FLW is restricted from referring off-post child care providers unless they have gone through the DOD certification process.

On 19 May, Major General Bonner changed command with Major General Beck. Recent VIP visits to FLW include U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt, the Secretary of the Army, Congressman Mark Alford, and the Principal Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and the Environment.

Col. Pollio concluded by highlighting success stories from a new internship program for students attending the off-post high school.

#### Mr. Randell Gelzer, Boeing

Mr. Gelzer provided a brief update on the T-7A trainer and M-Q25. Interest in and manufacturing of the F-15EX continue to ramp up. In commercial aviation, Boeing's 777-9 made its debut flight at the Paris Air Show. The 777-9 will return to St. Louis for an employee event. Boeing will be hosting a policy delegation from Washington, D.C., to tour the facilities and be briefed on Boeing's capabilities in St. Louis.

#### Mr. Dorsey Newcomb, Sustainable Ozarks Partnership

Mr. Newcomb reminded the Commission of the upcoming Sustainable Ozarks Partnership (SOP) Annual Meeting on August 16, 2023. Invited speakers include Governor Parson, the Missouri Congressional Delegation, the Commanding General, and the Missouri Military Advocate.

Mr. Newcomb provided an update on assistance to the City of Waynesville for a Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant application through the Department of Defense. The grant would allow for DOD funding of a new fire station in the City of Waynesville to support FLW through its mutual aid agreement. SOP will also be submitting a Military Community Reinvestment Grant application to the Missouri Department of Economic Development by the end of June.

Mr. Newcomb recognized members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation for their support of the U.S. Army and Fort Leonard Wood. In partnership with FLW, SOP will be conducting an assessment of off-post child care to identify opportunities for improvements and new incentives.

#### Mr. Bill Caniano, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Mr. Caniano highlighted the recent celebration of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in St. Louis. Followed by an update on the progress of the North St. Louis campus construction. Remediation of the current NGA facility has begun, and turnover to the Air Force is expected. Mr. Caniano also highlighted the annual GEOINT symposium in May that drew an attendance of approximately 5,000 to St. Louis.

Mr. Caniano gave a summary of recent VIP engagements, including U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt, University of Central Missouri President Dr. Best, and the Chancellor of Washington University.

NGA conducted a hiring event at Union Station in St. Louis and expects 900-1000 applications to be submitted. Additionally, 59 NGA interns were sworn-in during the month of June.

#### Mr. Paul Kirchhoff, Missouri Veterans Commission

Mr. Kirchhoff provided an overview of the Missouri Veterans Commission, including FY2024 budget planning and a new legal service to assist veterans with living wills. Missouri veteran homes remain open and are accepting applications. Mr. Kirchhoff also thanked Fort Leonard Wood for their assistance in the burial of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rusten Smith.

A Korean War medal pinning will be held on 27 July 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Missouri State Capitol.

The next Missouri Veterans Commission meeting will be held on 17 July 2023.

Mr. Grant Wilson, Office of Congressman Jason Smith

Mr. Wilson gave a brief update on veteran constituent services. Mr. Wilson stated that in the month of June, \$474,860.39 has been returned back to veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Over a five-year period, constituent services staff has assisted in the return of \$5,812,190.35 as of 15 June.

*The Commission went into recess at 11:53 a.m.*

*The Commission returned from recess at 1:08 p.m.*

Mr. Mike Dubois, Kit Bond Strategies

Mr. DuBois gave the Commission a summary of Q2 congressional and DOD engagements. Mr. DuBois also gave an update on advocacy initiatives for CY2023 and FY2024 to include Fort Leonard Wood housing and a Homeland Defense Training Center, B-21 beddown and fighter mission discussions at Whiteman Air Force Base, and C-130J modernization efforts with the Missouri National Guard.

Mr. DuBois highlighted changes to the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA currently totals \$886 billion, up 3.2% from the FY2023 enacted level. Of note, Boeing F/A-18 SuperHornet is still without funding, leading to a potential line closure in 2025.

Mr. DuBois concluded by noting additional defense issues such as recruitment, spousal employment, and cyber security concerns over artificial intelligence.

*Representative Aune departed at 1:47 PM*

Mr. Harry Roberts, Missouri Military Advocate

Mr. Roberts provided a quarterly update of activity within the Office of Military Advocate, including an update on the OMA/MMPEC website, the outcome of the Month of the Military Child Event with Mrs. Parson & Mrs. Brown, and attendance at the CASA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at Fort Leonard Wood. Mr. Roberts highlighted updates to strategic priorities such as the collection of public feedback for the Missouri Military Service Member & Family Resource Guide and the pending submission of the National Security Crossroads grant application to the Department of Defense. Mr. Roberts gave the Commission an activity report displaying advocacy meetings that have taken

place across the United States. Mr. Roberts gave a brief refresher on the defense economic impact in Missouri, including changes in Missouri's national rankings and military personnel allocations.

### **Old Business**

#### National Security Crossroads

Mr. Roberts stated that the National Security Crossroads grant applications will be signed and submitted very soon following an increase in travel expenses to attend the Department of Defense Resilience Workshop in St. Louis.

### **New Business**

#### Budget Update

Mr. Roberts gave a brief update on the budget for the Office of Military Advocate (OMA). There is no increase to the OMA budget in FY2024. OMA remains on schedule for consulting contracts and employee expenses. The Military Community Reinvestment Grant will likely be underspent going into the next fiscal year. The role of OMA Coordinator will continue to be funded through the Regional Engagement division of the Department of Economic Development.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Representative Hardwick and seconded by Commissioner Wallach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **Meeting Adjourned**