

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

Commission Meeting

Room 680, Executive Conference Room
Truman State Office Building
Jefferson City, MO 6510
March 16, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Chairman Dalton Wright; Jeff Bloemker; Dr. Annie Sobel; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director, MVC for Larry Kay; J. Stanton Thompson; and Kent Thomas.

Advisory Members Present: Dr. Margaret Anderson, Superintendent, Knob Noster School District; Tony Bamvakais, MONG; Dr. Judene Blackburn, DESE Liaison, Superintendent, Waynesville School District; Maj. General Stephen Danner, TAG, MONG; Col. Buster McCall, Whiteman AFB Liaison; Chi Anne McGrew, Whiteman AFB Liaison, Melissa Quantock, FLW Liaison; Col. Dennis Sandbothe, MONG; Brgd. General Arvid West, MVC Ad Hoc Member; and Col. Chuck Williams, Garrison Commander, FLW.

Guests Present: Sherry L. Anderson, DED; Allison Skare, Senator McCaskill's Office; David Snodgrass, Office of the Assist. Secretary of the Army, Central Region Environment and Governmental Affairs; and Bill Ransdall, DED.

The March 16, 2011 meeting of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Dalton Wright. Introductions were made and guests introduced most notably the Governor's recent appointments to the MMPEC.

Chairman Wright announced Governor Nixon appointed Dr. Annie Sobel, a MMEPC Advisory member, to the Commission on February 16th replacing Loretta Charleston, whose term had expired. The Governor also appointed Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson (Ret) to the Commission on February 16th replacing Bob Welling, whose term had expired.

Chairman Wright also announced that Representative Stephen Webber (D), District 23 had been appointed to the Commission on February 8th by Minority Floor Leader, Representative Mike Talboy. Representative Webber represents the City of Columbia and has served two tours in Iraq as a Marine Infantryman and worked on staff in Washington D.C. office of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Wright presented the minutes from the December 15, 2010 Conference Call to be approved. A motion was made by Dr. Sobel to approve the December 15, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item of business was to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2011 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bloemker to approve the January 12, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

Advisory Member Reports

Whiteman Air Force Base

Lt. Colonel Buster McCall stated that great headway had been made with the local communities with regard to children of “Key and Essential Military Personnel.” The most recent case of a child returning to Whiteman AFB, but who had spent seven years in the Warrensburg School District, met with no objection from the Knob Noster School Board to attend Warrensburg High School for his senior year.

WAFB efforts to complete the transfer are now being hindered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) addition of a requirement for a child to reside in the school district in which they want to attend school in order to qualify for a residency waiver under Section 167.020, subsections 2 and 3, RSMo. The DESE’s opinion “Proof of Residency Waiver” states: *“A student residing in the district who is not living with a parent, military guardian, or court-appointed legal guardian may request a proof of residency waiver at the time of registration.”* Missouri statute clearly gives the “district board or committee of the board” authorization to determine “hardship or good cause” in order to waive “any of those requirements” in subsection 2. One of those requirements is in fact “residency” in the district. Requests have been made to DESE on March 4 and 14, 2011 to find out what legal basis DESE has for adding a requirement not found in the Missouri statutes, but no response has been received as of March 16th.

If the local district boards are allowed to exercise the authority granted to them by the State of Missouri, a waiver granted for good cause will allow the student to be counted in the student population as if they were a resident student. This will allow Warrensburg the opportunity to count the student for State and Impact Aid.

Chair Wright and MMPEC members suggested a letter be sent to requesting a DESE representative come before the Commission to provide an explanation.

Col. McCall also reported the Predator mission is approximately one year out, and the Navy Seabees mission will be

National Guard

Major General Danner, TAG MONG, reported last year the Air Force initiated a “tail-grab” is an effort to chip away at the Air Guard’s flying mission. The plan would be shift 12 C-130 Hercules cargo planes from the Air Guard bases nationwide to replace older active-component models at Little Rock Air Force Base. In all, 21 Air Guard C-130s would be affected.

The Missouri National Guard (139th Airlift Wing-Rosecrans) was asked to send two planes. General Danner stated the planes were to be sent March 7th and March 28th. A plane was not sent to Little Rock nor does he intend to send a plane on March 28th.

General Danner explained the original agreement or “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Air Force and the National Guard was signed on March 2010 affirming the planes were only on loan, but in March 2011, the word “loan” was crossed out. Also in 2011, tagged on to agreement, the Air Force could not move one component from another without coming before the Congress. Furthermore, the Air Force was told they do not “own the metal.”

In addition, General Danner stated the nation’s Governors, National Guard leaders and the states’ TAGs were never consulted or advised of the scheme’s significant provisions. The plan continues an effort that began when Air Force leaders used the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process to cut the Air Guard instead of --- as BRAC was intended --- to divert excess infrastructure.

The National Guard, with its dual mission role, must have adequate fixed-wing aviation assets to support both its steady state missions as well as it need to support the Governor and local civil authorities during domestic emergencies. The Air Guard is the last place to look to save money because most of the bases are on state and municipal airport property, and they also have some of the most experienced air crews and maintainers in the Air Force.

General Danner also reported that he had spoken with Senator Claire McCaskill to convey his continued concerns regarding funding.

Mr. Bloemker remarked the Commission was created to ensure Missouri’s military, the Missouri National Guard readiness needs are in order to meet current military challenges and prepare for the future and the Commission should be helping the TAG and MONG, as they have in the past.

Chair Wright stated he would be meeting with Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler and he will discuss this issue and the MMPEC’s concerns.

On a positive note, the General said he had spoken with Senator Will Kraus and Representative Stephen Webber, both newly appointed members of the Commission, and suggested that they form a Military Caucus in their respective legislative bodies. Members of the caucus could be active, non-active military veterans who have served our Country and our State, plus auxiliary members who support Missouri’s military personnel, their dependents and veterans. The Commission members will offer their assistance to both Senator Kraus and Representative Webber in the formation of the caucus.

Missouri Veterans Commission

Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director, MO Veterans Commission announced the Governor honored women veterans at a proclamation signing in the Governor’s Office on March 15th. The proclamation “Salute to Women Veterans” was in honor of women’s history month and was to acknowledge the numerous sacrifices and accomplishments made by the brave women who have served the United States through military services.

Mr. Hunt announced MAVO and the VA would be holding an event in Columbia in May. The event is committed communicating the MVC three joint key messages: 1. See a Veterans Service Officer; 2. Sign up for VA health care; and 3. Join a Veterans Service Organization.

Mr. Hunt also reported the MO Veterans Commission is facing serious financial issues and anticipates by 2013, MVC may have to close some of the Missouri Veteran Homes (MVH). The MVH continue to be the skilled nursing care facilities of choice for Missouri's Veterans. Even while maintaining a census of 99% the waiting list continues to grow. On June 30, 2010 the waiting list statewide was 1,512 and increase of 273 during the fiscal year. The funding for nursing homes is derived from gambling revenues and General Revenue.

Chair Wright requested that the MVC provide more information on this issue and suggested it be put on the MMPEC meeting agenda for further discussion.

General West discussed the Missouri Honor Flight Program. Based on recent 2008 statistics, the United States is losing World War II (WW II) Veterans at the rate of approximately 1,000 per day. The Missouri Honor Flight Program continues to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of WW II Veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. One concern is that the Program is not reaching those WW II Veterans in Missouri and MVC cannot release the names of Veterans and it is up to families and friends of the World War II Veterans to contact the Honor Flight Program.

Fort Leonard Wood

Melissa Quantock, FLW Liaison expressed her gratitude the people of the State of Missouri after the December 31st tornado hit FLW. Within two days after the tornado, the USO could not accommodate the influx of supplies and donations to the Post. The response time to this disaster was tremendous and very much appreciated

Col. Charles Williams, FLW Garrison Commander, reported the tornado was grades as an EF3 with 102 families displaced and over \$100 million damages. The Columbia Missouri Task Force 1, one of only 28 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams in the country that specialize in search and rescue operations was activated to assist at FLW, but thankfully not needed. Of the 40 homes destroyed by the tornado, 25 were occupied and the families were able to get out in time, and the tornado voided the new construction and air field. The Post will be reviewing disaster prevention and exploring new ideas and ways to improve safety and the need for building storm shelters because most homes in area do not have basements.

Col. Williams also reported that several VFWs presented each family displaced by the tornado with \$500 and by sundown, all the families affected were being housed in hotel rooms and the power was back on by late evening. Furthermore, all Missouri Congressional members had contacted the Post and asked what they could do to assist. Col. Williams repeated Mrs. Quantock's sentiments regarding what a great community and state Missouri is.

The General invites the next MMPEC meeting to be held at the Fort
Main mission is training –last year trained 300,000 soldiers MPS 3,500 multi enhanced; 3 companies deployed;
Col. Williams announced that on May 21st Darrell Worley would be performing at the Post and on the July 4th the best fireworks display in the area along with the Army Solider Show, 90 minutes of live musical performance “For the Solider, By the Solider.”

Mrs. Quantock and Col. Williams extended an invitation to host the next MMPEC meeting at FLW sometime in June. Chair Wright and Commission members gladly accepted the invitation and the date and details of the meeting will be announced by e-mail once they have been confirmed.

Dr. Judene Blackburn, Waynesville Schools Superintendent

Dr. Blackburn praised General Quantock and Col. Williams for the quick recovery efforts following the tornado and reported only one elementary school was slightly damaged. The Waynesville School Board is reviewing educational changes due to the increase of FLW waiver hardship requests for “due cause” by extended families.

Allison Skare, Senator Claire McCaskill

Ms. Skare announced the Senator welcomes all suggestions, information and if anyone needs assistance to please contact her at the Senator’s office in Columbia.

David Snodgrass, Deputy Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Central Region

Mr. Snodgrass reported the Veteran Service officer training is being conducted to handle the increase of the number of veterans. Also, the New Assistance Center will be photographing each name listed on the Vietnam Wall.

Regarding the Department of Defense’s Key Life Issues-Ensure Deployment Separation Does Not Determine Child Custody Decisions, General Danner stated he disagreed with a statement in Martin Dempsey’s memo regarding this issue and requested Mr. Snodgrass to ask Mr. Dempsey to provide the MMPEC with clarification

Legislative Update

Bill Description	
SB27 Brown (S16)	Allows spouses who leave employment to follow their military spouses in the event of a military transfer, to qualify for unemployment compensation Last Action: 1/12/2011 - Second Rd/Refer: Veterans Affairs, Emerging Issues, Pensions,& Urban Affairs (S)
SB34 Stouffer (S21)	Allows spouses who leave employment to follow their military spouses in the event of a military transfer, to qualify for unemployment compensation Last Action: 1/12/2011 - Second Rd/Refer: Veterans Affairs, Emerging Issues, Pensions,&

	Urban Affairs (S)
SB78 Brown (S16)	<p>Extends the sunset on the military family relief fund income tax check-off from August 28, 2011, to December 31, 2017</p> <p>Last Action: 1/12/2011 - Second Rd/Refer: Veterans Affairs, Emerging Issues, Pensions,& Urban Affairs (S)</p>
HB79 Nolte (033)	<p>MILITARY MEDALLIONS AND MEDALS</p> <p>Authorizes the issuance of a military medallion, medal, and certificate to certain veterans who served in specified conflicts regardless of whether they are or ever were legal Missouri residents Fisher (125) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 1/25/2011 - Public Hearing Completed (H)</p>
HB136 Day (148)	<p>MILITARY SPOUSES</p> <p>Allows the spouse of certain active military members to be eligible for unemployment benefits and to receive a temporary courtesy license to practice his or her occupation or profession in this state</p> <p>Last Action: 3/07/2011 - Reported to the Senate and First Read (S)</p>
HB149 Day (148)	<p>MISSOURI MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND</p> <p>Extends the expiration date of the provisions regarding the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund to December 31, 2017, and the termination date of the provisions to September 1, 2018.</p> <p>Last Action: 2/28/2011 - Rules - Reported Do Pass Consent (H)</p>

HB150 Webber (023)	<p>COMPENSATION FOR STATE EMPLOYEES</p> <p>Requires a Missouri state employee to be compensated an amount equal to the difference between his or her military compensation and state salary when the military leave of absence exceeds 120 hours Kander (044) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 1/12/2011 - Read Second Time (H)</p>
HB204 Hoskins (121)	<p>DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWALS (0139L.01P)</p> <p>Allows a resident who is on active military duty to renew his or her expired driver's license without a complete examination if the renewal is made within a specified time from discharge or residency Largent (120) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 2/28/2011 - Rules - Reported Do Pass Consent (H)</p>
HB238 Kander (044)	<p>UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS</p> <p>Allows a spouse of an active member of the United States Armed Forces or reservist on active duty to be eligible for unemployment benefits if accompanying the military spouse in the event of a military move. Fisher (125) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 3/07/2011 - Voted Do Pass (H)</p>
HB 303 Day (148)	<p>COURTESY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES</p> <p>Requires any state agency or board that regulates an occupation or profession to establish rules for the issuance of a courtesy license to a nonresident spouse of certain active duty military members Lampe (138) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 2/28/2011 - Rules - Reported Do Pass Consent (H)</p>
HB 368	VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Meadows (101)	<p>Requires the Missouri Veterans Commission to issue an identification card to each veteran in the state who applies and provides proof of his or her military service Kratky (065) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 2/21/2011 – House Veterans Committee Public</p>
HB 611 Holsman (045)	<p>NIGHT SKY PROTECTION ACT</p> <p>Establishes the Night Sky Protection Act to reduce the amount of light emitted into the night sky to near natural levels for designated military training areas Atkins (075) , et al</p> <p>Last Action: 2/23/2011 - Read Second Time (H)</p>
HCR 7 Walton (7)	<p>Women Veterans</p> <p>Encourages the Missouri Veterans Commission to work with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to address the needs of women veterans and formally honor the heroic service of women.</p> <p>Last Action: 2/28/2011 Reported Do Pass by the House</p>
HCR 11 Nolte (33)	<p>Liberty Memorial</p> <p>Urges the Congress to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National Museum in Kansas City as the National World War I Memorial.</p> <p>Last Action: 3/03/2011 – Rules Reported Do Pass (H)</p>
HCR 33 Wyatt (2)	<p>Honor Flag</p> <p>Designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the State of Missouri's emblem of service and sacrifice of service men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty</p>

	Last Action: 3/03/2011 – Rules Reported Do Pass (H)
HJR 30 Wyatt	Tax Exemption for Veterans Adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to property tax exemptions for veterans. Last Action: 3/03/2011 – House Veterans Committee Public

Ms. Anderson reported that she had attended several House Veteran Committee meetings and she had met with Representative Day regarding the Key Issues of Quality Life issues and believed that MMPEC legislative issues will be successful for the second year in a row.

Comments and Announcements

General Danner announced the MONG will be seeking private funding for the Youth Challenge Program. Also, the MONG have initiated a program to train offenders to assist the MONG during flood disasters. Presently, there are approximately 3,000 Veterans in the Corrections system.

General Danner reported the National Guard Bureau announced the MONG placed first in press relations by the National Guard Bureau, placed first place in the Special Events category and second place in Command Blog.

Chi Anne McGrew, WAFB School Liaison Officer, Knob Noster School District announced that she will be leaving WAFB because her husband starts his tour in Germany.

Dr. Sobel announced the U.S. Cyber Challenge (USCC) its Cyber Foundations competition, an online contest to identify talented high school students with the skills to pursue advanced education and job opportunities in the cyber security field. The Cyber Quest will begin taking registration April 11th to compete for an invitation to one of several Cyber Camp being offered this summer. The Foundation is public-private sector entities collaborating to enhance cyber security professionals through skill development activities, mentoring, and resources, and the facilitation opportunities will begin The Air Force Association, the Center for Internet Security, the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center and the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. For more information visit US Cyber Challenge.org

The Commission members discussed scheduling meetings on Mondays rather than Wednesdays. Motion to adjourn Kent and seconded by Jeff.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Bloemker seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion approved. Chairman Dalton Wright called the March 16, 2011 meeting adjourned.

Minutes Approved:

Chairman Dalton Wright

Date