

# **Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission Commission Meeting**

Pershing Community Center  
Building 4109 Piney Hills Drive  
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

June 27, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

**Commission Members Present:** Jeff Bloemker; Katie Steele Danner; Mike Dunbar; Bill James; Senator Will Kraus; Rep. Scott Largent (conference call); J. Stanton Thompson; Patty Faenger, Administrator Missouri Veterans Home, St. James (designee for Larry Kay).

**Advisory Members Present:** Tony Bamvakais, MONG; Joe Driskill, LWI; Roger Layman, Reserves; Melissa Quantock, FLW Liaison; Col. Chuck Williams, Garrison Commander, FLW.

**Guests Present:** Sherry L. Anderson, DED; Rep. David Day, District 148, Chairman House Veterans Committee; Dorsey Newcomb, LWI; Major General David Quantock, FLW Commanding General; Bill Ransdall, DED; Allison Skare, Senator McCaskill's Office; David Snodgrass, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Central Region Environment and Governmental Affairs; and; Dalton Wright, former MMPEC Chairman.

The June 27, 2011 meeting of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The first order of business was a motion by Rep. Largent to nominate Jeff Bloemker as MMPEC chairman. The motion was seconded by Bill James. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Chairman Bloemker nominating Senator Kraus as MMPEC vice chairman. The motion was seconded by Rep. Largent. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bloemker welcomed everyone and introductions were made and personally thanked MG Quantock, his wife Melissa and the Fort Leonard Wood staff for hosting the meeting.

## **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Bloemker presented the minutes from the March 16, 2011 meeting. A motion was made by Senator Kraus to approve the MMPEC March 16, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dunbar. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bloemker called on Dalton Wright, the first chairman of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission. Mr. Wright stated the MMPEC was created to try to protect and expand Missouri's two military bases as the Department of Defense (DOD) announced closing or realigning military installations (BRAC).

The MMPEC was formed to come up with a biennial plan to protect and attract expanded missions to the Missouri's military installations. The plan also is to encourage the development of defense-related industries, among other things. Similar commissions exist in other states, some of which have mounted more aggressive efforts than Missouri.

In large part, the Commission was formed to try to make Missouri more proactive when it comes to making the state more military friendly.

The impetus for the legislation came from the Whiteman Area Leadership Council, a group formed in February 2004. The council hired The Spectrum Group, an Alexandria, Virginia-based military consultant, to evaluate the base and community in advance of the next round of base closings. The consultant concluded that Whiteman --- home to the nation's B-2 bombers --- had good infrastructure and room to expand. The hope was not just to retain the base, but that to grow Whiteman.

The DOD list was released on May 13, 2005, and in Missouri closure recommendations included three National Guard and Reserve centers, a Navy recruiting district headquarters and the St. Louis and Kansas City Defense Finance and Accounting Centers, which included the 131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing in St. Louis. There was a significant (over 2,000 space) loss in manpower space in leased facilities in St. Louis. Overall, Missouri lost 3,679 military and civilian jobs. Only six states lost more jobs than Missouri, and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois near St. Louis, gained almost 1,700 spaces.

Mr. Wright that the Commission is even more important now to Missouri's military installations than when it formed in 2005 because it has lost two of its biggest advocates --- Senator Christopher Bond and Congressman Ike Skelton.

## Legislative Update

Chairman Bloemker introduced Rep. David Day, Chairman of the House Veterans Committee and District 141 State Representative, which includes Fort Leonard Wood. Commission member Senator Kraus and Rep. Day gave an overview of the 2011 Legislative Session and discussed the military legislation that passed.

Bill Description	
<b>SB 27</b> Brown (S16) <b>Refer to HCS for HB 136</b>	Allows spouses who leave employment to follow their military spouses in the event of a military transfer, to qualify for unemployment compensation.
<b>SB 34</b> Stouffer (S21) <b>Refer to HCS for HB 136</b>	Allows spouses who leave employment to follow their military spouses in the event of a military transfer, to qualify for unemployment compensation.

<b>SB 36</b> Lembke (S1) <b>5/11/2011 Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed with an Emergency Clause. Sent to the Governor for his signature.</b>	This allows employees of employers with fifty or more employees to take a leave of absence to perform civil air patrol emergency service duty or counter narcotics missions. The employee will not lose time, leave, or other rights or benefits as a result of this leave of absence. However, the employer is not required to pay a salary to the employee during this period of leave and the employer has a right to request that the employee be exempted from responding to a specific mission and the Missouri wing commander is required to honor the employer's request. This act has an emergency clause.
<b>SB 78</b> Brown (S16) <b>Did not Pass</b>	Extends the sunset on the military family relief fund income tax check-off from August 28, 2011, to December 31, 2017.
<b>SB 91</b> Engler (S3) <b>Did not Pass</b>	This act modifies criminal provisions regarding picketing or engaging in other protest activities in front of or about any location at which a funeral is held, or within three hundred feet of or about any location at which a funeral is held.
<b>HB 79</b> Nolte (033) <b>Did not Pass</b>	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
<b>HCS for HB136</b> Day (148) <b>4/27/2011 Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed. Sent to the Governor for his signature.</b>	<p><u>Unemployment Benefits for Military Spouses</u>  This bill specifies that a claimant seeking unemployment compensation is not disqualified for waiting week credit or benefit, regardless if the claimant has earned wages for insured work equal to 10 times the claimant's weekly benefit amount, if the claimant quit work in order to relocate with his or her spouse who is an active duty in the United States armed forces, the national guard, or other reserves. If a claimant is not disqualified as a result of this provision, no benefits based on wages paid for a work prior to the quitting date can be chargeable to the claimant's former employer.</p> <p><u>Courtesy Professional Licenses for Nonresident Military Spouses</u>  Any state agency or board that regulates an occupation or profession must establish criteria for the issuance of a temporary courtesy license to a</p>

	<p>nonresident spouse of an active duty member of the military who is stationed in Missouri allowing him or her to lawfully practice his or her occupation or profession in this state. The bill: (1) Requires an applicant for a courtesy license to hold a current license or certificate from another state, district, or United States territory whose licensing requirements are equivalent to those established by Missouri law for that occupation or profession; (2) Requires an applicant to have been engaged in the active practice of the occupation or profession for at least two of the five years immediately preceding the date of his or her application; (3) Specifies that an applicant cannot have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for the refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license or certificate under Missouri law at the time the act was committed; (4) Specifies that an application cannot have been disciplined by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction or be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review, disciplinary proceeding by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction; (5) Authorizes the appropriate board or agency to conduct and pay for a criminal background check; (6) Requires an applicant to pay any required fees and comply with other requirements as provided by the appropriate board; and (7) Specifies that a temporary courtesy license or certificate will be valid for 180 days and may be extended at the discretion of the applicable regulatory board or agency for another 180 days upon application of the holder. These provisions will not apply to the practice of law or regulation of attorneys.</p>
<p><b>SCS for HB 149</b> Day (148) <b>5/10/2011 Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed. Sent to the Governor or his signature.</b></p>	<p>Currently, the provisions that allow an individual or corporation to designate part of a tax refund to the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund expire August 28, 2011, and terminate December 31, 2012. This bill removes the expiration and termination dates of those provisions.</p>
<p><b>HB150</b> Webber (023) <b>Did not Pass</b></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.</p>

<b>HB 204</b> Hoskins (121) <b>4/28/2011 Truly Agreed and Finally Passed. Sent to the Governor for his signature.</b>	Currently, a resident who is a member of the national guard or the armed forces of the United States who is serving on active duty and fails to renew his or her driver's license is not required to take a complete examination if he or she renews within 60 days after completing the military service. This bill specifies that the member will be given 90 days after completing the military service and re-establishing residence within the state to renew his or her license without being required to take the complete examination. Any person discharged from the armed forces of the United States will have six months from the date of discharge or within 90 days after re-establishment of residence within the state, whichever is sooner, to renew an expired driver's license without examination. A Missouri resident on active military duty or any dependent, 21 years of age or older, residing outside Missouri or the United States may renew his or her driver's license by mail.
<b>HB 238</b> Kander (044) <b>Refer to HCS for HB136</b> <b>4/27/2011 Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed. Sent to the Governor for his signature.</b>	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.
<b>HB 303</b> Day (148) <b>Refer to HCS for HB 136</b>	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
<b>HB 368</b> Meadows (101) <b>Did not Pass</b>	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.
<b>HB 442</b> Franz (151) <b>Did not Pass</b>	Gives a bidding preference in a state contract for products and services manufactured, produced, or assembled by certain veteran-owned businesses headquartered in Missouri.
<b>HB 611</b> Holsman (45) <b>Did not Pass</b>	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.

<b>HB 654</b> Fitzwater (152) <b>Did not Pass</b>	Operation Enduring Freedom Day. This bill designates March 26 of each year as "Veterans of Operation Iraq/Enduring Freedom Day" in Missouri when citizens are encouraged to observe the day with appropriate events, activities, and remembrances in honor of the veterans who served during military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.
<b>HB 673</b> Largent (120) Hoskins (121) <b>Did not Pass</b>	Authorizes the presentation of a Missouri National Guard Overseas Training Ribbon, a Missouri National Guard State Partnership Program Ribbon, and the Order of Minuteman Award.
<b>HB 911</b> Webber (23) <b>Did not Pass</b>	Provides for an income tax refund designation to the Missouri Veterans' Medical Research Trust Fund.
<b>HCR 7</b> Walton (7) <b>Did not Pass</b>	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.
<b>HCR 11</b> Nolte (33) <b>Passed</b>	Urges the Congress to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National Museum in Kansas City as the National World War I Memorial.
<b>HCR 33</b> Wyatt (2)	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.
<b>HJR 30</b> Wyatt	Adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to property tax exemptions for veterans.

## **Updates from Advisory Members**

### **Fort Leonard Wood**

Major General David Quantock, Fort Leonard Wood Commanding General welcomed the Commission members and thanked the MMPEC for the opportunity to showcase the Post. General Quantock gave a power point presentation of the Post and the surrounding communities.

Fort Leonard Wood is a combined services military installation in the center of Missouri on I-44 and covers an area of more than 62,000 acres, of which nearly 54,000 acres is used for training. The setting is beautiful and the investment on the Fort is very impressive. Fort Leonard Wood

annually trains more than 73,000 Soldiers in various military specialties and advanced leadership skills. There is an average daytime population of more than 34,000 people at Fort Leonard Wood, with approximately \$2 billion yearly economic impact to the State of Missouri. More than 7,000 active duty Military personnel and about 8,500 civilians and contract employees work at the Installation.

When the Pentagon closed Fort McClellan in Alabama in 1995, the U.S. Military Police School and U.S. Army Chemical School relocated to Fort Leonard Wood. The Post now includes units of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The Fort is the home to the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence where chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear students; engineer students; and military police students receive training. Included in the mix for training are Soldiers, plus Marines, Airmen, Sailors and international students from allied nations.

The Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Garrison provides Post operations services to service members, leaders and families, and is a civic partner to a strong community relationship. Garrison Command personnel support the training mission of the installations, mobilized and deployed active and reserve component units and personnel, and operate and maintain the Installation facilities and programs that ensure a quality of life for assigned service personnel, civilians and their families.

Approximately 100,000 people visit Fort Leonard Wood's John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex each year with its growing collection of historical artifacts. One of the museum's unique projects is the restoration of a World War II company area that features a dining facility, barracks, company headquarters and officer quarters from the 1940s.

One of the highlights at the Post is the partnership forged between the Army and the University of Missouri by establishing a competitive, high technology research park for companies and other organizations that value: U.S. military and research universities; high security environment with full business services and easy interstate, air and rail access; diverse, skilled and highly motivated workforce; and small community setting that provides great quality of life and educational opportunities for employees and their families at affordable cost.

General Quantock reported that the 2010 Defense Authorization Bill ensures that Fort Leonard Wood has what it needs to accommodate the growing number of soldiers on Post and offer the quality of life Americans expect for our men and women in uniform. Additions and alterations to the health and dental clinics will increase the Post's capacity to provide essential health care services for Soldiers and their families. The new addition to the health clinic provides the best care for our wounded, ill, or, injured Soldiers. With a new Warrior in Transition complex, Fort Leonard Wood will play a direct role helping wounded warriors and their families prepare to return to active duty or back to civilian life.

General Quantock stated that Fort Leonard Wood has the distinction as a vital national security mission as one of our country's most important training bases. The new barracks will house Soldiers sent to the Post for Advanced Individual Training. The new wheeled vehicle driver's

course will enable the Post to accommodate the increasing number of service members who need heavy truck driver training. The digital training facility will provide up-to-date computer labs and classrooms to support chemical, military police, and engineer professional military education courses.

General Quantock announced the Department of Defense is currently engaged in over \$700 million in new construction and improvements. The original proposal for Fort Leonard Wood was \$1 billion for new construction, but since the departure of Congressman Skelton, the funding was cut by \$300,000. General Quantock also referenced that he had been negotiating with his military brass on trying to save about 700 civilian jobs at the Post. These reductions would come from some positions that are currently open not being filled, but most by actual downsizing and lay-offs. He referenced that his decision is pending and could be decided upon any day.

The General also applauded Governor Nixon for his support and his quick response and site evaluation after the New Year's Eve tornado tore through the Post. He concomitantly mentioned that the Governor has not had a briefing or tour of the Post to be able to amplify the importance of the facility to the State's workforce.

Chairman Bloemker thanked General Quantock and Mrs. Quantock for hosting the meeting and luncheon and for the very informative overview of Post.

## **National Guard**

Tony Bamvakais reported that Governor Nixon activated the Missouri National Guard in response to tornadoes and severe storms that moved through the state in May. The Governor declared a state emergency in Missouri and activated the State Emergency Operations Center. The State of Missouri Resource, Recovery & Rebuilding Center opened on June 7<sup>th</sup> and it will serve as a one-stop shop for Joplin residents who have been affected by the tornado and who need assistance and support.

The Guard will be working alongside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which had been tasked with leading the contracting effort. The Missouri National Guard will be monitoring and handling quality assurance to make sure the job is being done right and priorities are executed.

Ongoing missions include working with local law enforcement remain a major priority for the Guard. Citizen-Soldiers are manning traffic control points and patrolling Soldiers from the 117<sup>th</sup> Engineer Team also set up a mobile hospital outside St. John's Hospital.

Mr. Bamvakais also reported that the Governor directed the Guard to coordinate and supervise the State's efforts in preparing for and responding to imminent flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries. Two Colonels from the Guard will oversee two task forces that will coordinate flood preparation and response in the eastern and western portions of the State.



## **Missouri Veterans Commission**

Patty Faenger, Missouri Veterans Home-St. James Administrator presented an overview of the St. James Veterans Home. St. James has the distinguished honor of being the oldest of seven veteran's homes in the State of Missouri. The home was established in 1896 by the Women's Relief Corps. Its original purpose was to provide care to aging Missourians who had fought for the Union in the Civil War. The home now cares for Missouri Veterans who served our country and fought to preserve our freedoms.

The Missouri Veterans Home currently provides medical and skilled nursing care to Veterans who meet the following qualifications for admission:

- A Veteran who served active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Have lived in the State of Missouri for at least 180 days (at any time in their lives).
- Have a need for services.

Ms. Faenger also reported the Home sponsored an Open House on June 14<sup>th</sup> for military organizations. It was an opportunity people to learn about the Home, to tour the facility and to be introduced to the staff and meet the Veterans at the Home.

Ms. Faenger encouraged the Commission members to visit the facility nestled in the beautiful hills of St. James.

## **Leonard Wood Institute**

Joe Driskill, Executive Director presented an informative program about the Leonard Wood Institute (LWI). LWI is a unique local organization that was created to support the Army's success at Fort Leonard Wood and elsewhere, and to help generate opportunities for business and job growth in the communities of central Missouri. Because the Post is geographically remote from where much of the Army's technical and industrial support base exists, LWI concentrates on helping build some of this capacity in the region.

LWI is a Missouri-based, 501(c) 3 non-profit with a mission to connect regional businesses and university expertise to Army training and technology needs and, as a result, build a stronger technology base and improve the economy. A formal Cooperative Agreement with the Army Research Laboratory's (ARL) Human Research and Engineering Directorate (HRED) has allowed LWI to initiate, fund and manage applied research projects performed by a large number of subcontracted researchers and to build capacity to support future Army Consequence Management, Protection, Maneuvers Support and related missions (emphasis on training and human system integration).

LWI efforts are aimed at building innovation capacity in the private sector and better two-way communication with the Army than can help Post be more successful with its current mission, and thereby make a case for new or expanded missions in the future.

LWI has successfully managed to conclusion and reported the results of 72 Research and Development (R&D) projects to date that have been completed and reported to ARL for the Army's use. There are currently 52 projects under LWI management whose results were made available to the Army in April 2011. An additional 21 projects were recently awarded with a research period of performance that concludes at the end of 2011. To date, LWI has secured funding for the federal government that has allowed it to award about \$59.8 million in R&D projects, with most of the project work performed in Missouri.

LWI is actively working to become self-sustaining so that it can continue efforts for the long term. LWI firmly believes that becoming a "trusted entity" in partnership with the Army will allow them to help bring future benefits to the region, and strengthen the Army's presence at Fort Leonard Wood.

LWI has built a network of partners in innovation that are supporting the Army's success and growth and Fort Leonard Wood. Among those partners are: numerous Missouri-based small businesses, all four campuses of the University of Missouri, Lincoln University of Missouri (a Historically Black College or University --- HBCU), and traditional defense contractors of all sizes, inside and outside of Missouri. LWI also are partners with the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC), the Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC), and the Fort Leonard Wood Regional Commerce and Growth Association (FLW RCGA).

Mr. Driskill presented an economic data report that highlighted the following:

- Average annual economic impact in Missouri (MO DED Study)
  1. 514 new jobs at an average wage of \$52,000
  2. Cumulative impact on Gross State Product -- \$39.7 million
  3. New State Tax Revenues -- \$1.16 million
- Success of University of Missouri Technology Park
- Strong partnership with the Fort Leonard Wood-RCGA, the University of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Economic Development and others to attract new defense-related jobs and companies to the region and grown an industrial base
- Strong job market for unformed members of the military retiring at Fort Leonard Wood and for dependents of military personnel
- Momentum for growth – military mission and private sector

Mr. Driskill discussed University of Missouri Technology Park, a unique joint effort by the State of Missouri, the University of Missouri System and the Army established at Fort Leonard Wood in 2000. The Park provides a solid foundation for mission expansion and economic development growth.

The Park has two buildings (36K square feet). The buildings are full with a waiting list. Tenants include corporations, academic offices and Army elements. It supports about 150 jobs with an

average salary of \$77,600 (regional average is \$29,500). Many of the job holders are military spouses and retirees.

The Park is jointly owned by the State of Missouri (Missouri Technology Corporation) and the University of Missouri. The Army provides a long term lease of the land for the Park. The Park is profitable (\$1 million FY09 revenue, ROI \$353,000/year).

Mr. Driskill stated the Park needs to expand because they have reached capacity and a private developer is currently in negotiations with the Army to construct two additional buildings. Chair Bloemker asked Mr. Driskill what the Commission could do to assist in the process and Mr. Driskill stated a letter of support from the Commission would be welcomed.

A motion was made by Senator Kraus and seconded by Mr. James to send a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers expressing its support of expanding the Technology Park. Motion was passed unanimously.

## **Old/New Business**

### **Committee of Fifty-Fort Leonard Wood**

Bill Ransdall, Committee of Fifty member, welcomed the Commission members to the Post, Pulaski County and Waynesville. Mr. Ransdall presented an overview of the Committee and its activities relevant to Fort Leonard Wood. The Committee is a civilian group that formed approximately 60 years ago by local businessmen and community leaders to support the Fort, the Soldiers and their families.

## **Comments**

**Mr. Stanton** suggested that MMPEC launch formal discussions regarding BRAC and the possible affect on Missouri's two major military installations. Chairman Bloemker responded that he believes the realignment of military bases will be accomplished through the budget process not as it was handled in 2005.

The Commission discussed the importance of conducting economic developing research and analysis with the goal of developing policies and recommendations to ensure the State of Missouri's ongoing competitiveness for economic growth. A source of economic development often overlooked is the contribution of the military to the Missouri economy. Several military installations foster growth of the State's economy by increasing private sector jobs and overall economic well-being. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions, combined with decisions made by the Department of Defense regarding transformation, modularity and the global repositioning of military personnel and missions, highlighted the importance of the military contribution to the State's economy.

Chairman Bloemker stated to attain this mission, he suggested that MMPEC take a more proactive stance and reach out to form alliances with Missouri Congressional members and to Senator Claire McCaskill and Senator Roy Blunt. He suggested that MMPEC schedule site

visits at Missouri's military installations along with tours of Jefferson Barracks, Boeing, Rosecrans and time with Governor Nixon and MG Danner. He stated that these types of trips were very successful when he did them in New Jersey, Mississippi and South Carolina.

## **Announcements**

### **Katie Steele Danner**

Ms. Danner announced the "Salute to the Military" will be August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Missouri State Fair. All military personnel receive free admission to the Fair and their families will receive a discounted admission fee.

The first full-scale Civil War reenactment of the sesquicentennial period was held in Boonville on June 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 700 reenactors participated during the storms and stifling heat. Organizers estimated that 10,000 spectators attended, watching the action as it unfolded on the same field where Union soldiers confronted a small contingent of Missouri State Guard troops 150 years ago.

She also announced that she and the TAG would be attending a youth symposium at the end of July in Kentucky.

### **Allison Skare-Senator Claire McCaskill**

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

Chairman Bloemker announced the next MMPEC meeting would be Tuesday, September 13 in Jefferson City.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. James moved and Mr. Dunbar seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion approved. Chairman Jeff Bloemker called the June 27, 2011 meeting adjourned.

Minutes Approved:

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Chairman Jeff Bloemker

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Date