

# Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission Commission Meeting

Harry S. Truman State Office Building  
Room 680 Conference Room  
301 West High Street  
Jefferson City, MO

September 13, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

**Commission Members Present:** Jeff Bloemker; Mike Dunbar; Bill James; Larry Kay; Senator Will Kraus; Rep. Scott Largent; Dr. Annie Sobel; and J. Stanton Thompson;

**Advisory Members Present:** Tony Bamvakais, MONG; Dr. Judene Blackburn, Superintendent, Waynesville School District; Joe Driskill, LWI; Cindy Hall, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office; Roger Layman, Reserves; Lt. Col. Buster McCall, Whiteman AFB; FLW Liaison; and Mike Warren, Director, Public Affairs, FLW.

**Guests Present:** Sherry L. Anderson, DED

The September 13, 2011 meeting of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

## Review of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Bloemker presented the minutes from the June 27, 2011 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. James to approve the MMPEC June 27, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sobel. The motion carried unanimously.

## Three Goals

Chairman Bloemker presented the three main goals and objective he would like the Commission to pursue of the next few months. He stated the military plays a major role in the State's economy and it is the charge of the Commission to advise Governor Nixon and members of the General Assembly on all military issues and economic and industrial development related military issues.

The goals are:

1. Plan an orientation and staff trip for members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to coalesce further working relationships and information regarding communities, the state's congressional delegation and state agencies regarding federal actions affecting military installations and missions. Develops strategies to

protect the state's existing military missions and positions the state to be competitive for new and expanded military missions.

2. Economic Impact Report (part of larger 2012 Annual Report/Strategic Report)
3. Defense Industry Relations
  - ➔ Develop methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance a community's relationship with military installations and defense-related businesses
  - ➔ Defense economic adjustment and transition and activities information concerning:
    - ✓ Issues related to the operating costs, missions, and strategic value of federal military installations located in the state
    - ✓ Employment issues for communities that depend on defense bases and in defense-related businesses
    - ✓ Defense strategies and incentive programs that other states are using to maintain expand and attract new defense contractors. Assist communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance community relationships with military installations and defense-related businesses, including regional alliances that may extend over state lines.
  - ➔ Fosters the enhancement of military value of the contributions of Missouri military installations to national defense strategies
  - ➔ Considers all current and anticipated base realignment and closure criteria

Chairman Bloemker assign MMPEC members to become the conduit between MMPEC, the military community and the surrounding civilian communities, Missouri's congressional members, small businesses, Missouri academia community, local governments, and state government. He asked the following members to serve in these capacities: 1. Bill James to be the champion for Whiteman AFB; 2. Mike Dunbar to be champion for Fort Leonard Wood; 3. Dr. Annie Sobel to be the champion for Missouri academia community; and 4. Admiral Thompson to be the champion for the defense community.

Chairman Bloemker

## **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 the 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 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