**Minutes**

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**

**Regular Quarterly Meeting**

March 6, 2018

10:00 am

The meeting was held at the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Room 316, Jefferson City, Missouri.

MMPEC members participating: Royal Turner (phone), Steve Ehrhardt, Bob Hagedorn, Bob Russell (phone), Hart Nelson, Senator Wayne Wallingford, Grace Link (Veterans Commission designee), and Military Advocate Joe Driskill (DED Director designee).

Guests participating: Mike Dubois, Keith Crumley, Steve Johnston, Tammy Long, Roger Layman (phone), Joe Scallorns (phone), Marti Yoshida (phone), Kent Thomas, Bryan Parker, Dorsey Newcomb, Michael Haffner, Kyler Cliffman, Suzanne Taylor, Sharri Carter, and Don Koonce.

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order and roll was called. Quorum was established with six statutory members and two ex-officio member designees participating.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the December 5, 2017 and February 26, 2018 meetings, as submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Ehrhardt. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**REPORTS**

Mr. Driskill welcomed Senator Wallingford to the Commission and to the meeting. The Senator then introduced himself and gave an overview of his distinguished military background. Mr. Driskill walked through a brief overview of the agenda items for the meeting.

Military Advocate Update – Mr. Driskill discussed his significant travel since the last meeting and the major initiatives he’s been involved in. He noted that the contracts with Kit Bond Strategies and Baker Donelson will continue. The University of Central Missouri study, Phase I, should be released March 30, 2018 and funding for Phase II is coming from the Division of Workforce Development. A detailed list of installation locations was distributed and discussed. Budget metrics, DED’s reorganization, his ADC involvement, and upcoming dates of interest were then reviewed.

Mr. Driskill advised that he’s been working with the St. Louis Area Working Group (SLAWG) to attract workforce for NGA. Chair Hagedorn questioned who SLAWG was. Mr. Driskill advised that it is made up of a group of volunteers; he’s been to meetings ranging from 20-100 people. The group is led by Steven Thomas of Ball Aerospace. Mr. Driskill serves on the steering committee.

Mr. Driskill has been working on an initiative involving the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) campus in Kansas City, whose mission is to maintain a safe, secure and reliable nuclear weapons stockpile to help ensure the security of the U.S.

Commissioner Turner advised he had met with General Danner and there was talk of moving the Military Advocate budget from DED to his budget and questioned if there had been any further discussion on that. Mr. Driskill advised that the advantage would be that the National Guard has the ability to pull in staff to assist with projects. He expects conversation may continue this summer.

Kit Bond Strategies Update – Mike Dubois reviewed the mission of KBS and Baker Donelson. He noted that Congressional support is crucial and appreciated. He advised that Congress reached a budget agreement on February 9th for FY18 and 19; $54 billion above the spending caps. He reviewed the projects that are most likely to get full funding with the budget agreement, including the A-10 Wing Replacement at Whiteman Air Force Base, the C-130 modernization at the 139th Air Wing and construction projects with NGA and the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital replacement. Don Koonce asked how much of the cleared space will be occupied by NGA. Mr. Dubois advised that all 97 acres will be built to capacity and occupied.

Missouri Veterans Commission update – Colonel Grace Link stated they have been focusing on the veterans homes; St. Louis in particular. They are adding an extra layer of inspection by working with the Department of Health and Senior Services. The VA will continue to inspect. She advised that the Chair’s priority is driving culture change. Mr. Driskill thanked her and their staff for working on outreach to transitioning veterans.

INSTALLATION COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Whiteman Air Force Base (WAFB) – Keith Crumley offered financial support for the Military Appreciation Day and challenged the other installations to do so also. He advised that the bridge over 23 Highway is their budget priority. He would like to see support for HB1530, which Mr. Driskill will provide copies to the Commissioners for their review.

Rosecrans and 139th – Steve Johnston reported from Rosecrans and the 139th. He advised that he spent the morning advocating for the MMPEC at the Capitol. He noted that educational opportunities are expanding on base through Missouri Western University.

National Guard – Mr. Koonce invited the Commissioners to their association annual conference taking place in Springfield April 27-28, 2018.

Fort Leonard Wood – Mardi Yoshida advised that Fort Leonard Wood would begin training for an Urban Search and Rescue course, which provides skills needed during disaster response. Ms. Yoshida noted they are expecting leadership changes this spring/summer, including Major General Kent Savre.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Strategic Action Plan Update **–** Mr. Driskill reviewed the Missouri Military Advocate Action Plan, which had been distributed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting and contained changes discussed at the December 5, 2017 meeting. He advised that the Military Appreciation Day, set for March 28, 2018, has been postponed. He is hoping to get it scheduled before the end of the legislative session. He advised that Strategy 1.6 can be removed because this information is being produced on the federal level. He advised that, in reference to Strategy 1.8, a legislative proposal was developed that because HB2339, sponsored by Representative Steve Lynch.

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby authorizes the removal of Strategy 1.6 from the Missouri Military Advocate Action Plan.

Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Ehrhardt. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Military Appreciation Day – Mr. Driskill advised that a date in late April/eary May is under consideration. Chair Hagedorn encouraged Mr. Driskill to do whatever is needed to make it happen. Mr. Driskill will continue to look for dates.

Proposed meeting dates for 2018 – Meeting dates for 2018 were reviewed. It was suggested that the June meeting be hosted at Fort Leonard Wood; Commissioner Ehrhardt confirmed. The September meeting will be hosted by Rosecrans to coordinate with their air show and open house.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Driskill noted there may be a need for a phone meeting to discuss the draft of the annual report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business on the agenda, and on motion by Commissioner Ehrhardt, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, the meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.