**Minutes**

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**

**Regular Quarterly Meeting**

**Jefferson City, MO**

December 4,2018 ~ 10:00 am

The meeting was held at the Harry S Truman State Office Building, Room 500 (5th Floor), 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, MO.

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

Guests: Kent Thomas, Dorsey Newcomb, Bryan Parker, Keith Crumley, Tammy Long, Scotty Allen, Kaprece James, Ross Cohen, Rachel Gilroy, Mike DuBois, Casey Lund, Suzanne Taylor, Colonel Chris Callis, and Randall Gelzer.

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am and roll was called. Quorum was established with five statutory members and two ex-officio member designees participating. Guests were introduced.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the August 24, 2018 meeting, as submitted.

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

**REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS**

Ross Cohen and Kaprece James gave a briefing of Blue Star Families regarding the launch of its efforts in Missouri. Ms. James discussed the Military Lifestyle Family Survey they conduct each year. Ninth survey forthcoming. There’s 30 service areas; 10 new coming on. The survey results help communities understand what military families need. They reach 1 million families each year through their partnerships and resources. They are currently searching for a Regional Director for Missouri. Hope to have someone on board by February. Mr. Newcomb endorsed the importance of Blue Star Families.

Fort Leonard Wood update – Bryan Parker stated they have a change of command occurring. They will have holiday leave, then back to training soldiers in 2019.

Whiteman Air Force Base update – Colonel Chris Callis was present and noted that on December 10th, they will receive DOD funds. Governor Parson will be in attendance at the event. They will also go through a change of command this summer.

Rosecrans update – Commissioner Turner stated they are in the process of putting new engines on C-130s. They are also working on a small MILCON project.

Whiteman Area Leadership Council – Keith Crumley noted they sponsored this year’s Hawg Smoke. They sent 5,000 Christmas cards to deployed soldiers. They recently participated in fundraising efforts for the Knob Noster school. This will allow them to share space in a new high school. In talks with Department of Conservation about a joint range with Lake City.

Whiteman BCC – Casey Lund spoke about the Inaugural Bomber Ball. He advised they gave away 10 trips home for the holidays this year.

Sustainable Ozarks Partnership - Kent Thomas advised they sent 15 soldiers to AUSLA Convention. It was a wonderful experience for them. While there, they visited with their congressional delegation. He stated they are making improvements to a shared airport. They recently celebrated a DOD grant for Waynesville School for advanced placement courses for up to two years. Dorsey Newcomb stated that the Governor visited in October, and they have visited with Senator-elect Hawley who supports their military efforts. They anticipate the groundbreaking of the Fort Leonard Wood hospital to be in Fall 2019 and to be fully built within four years. Mr. Newcomb advised that the Fort Hood training course is moving to Fort Leonard Wood.

Military Advocate Quarterly Update – Joe Driskill advised that he’s had significant engagements and travel since the last meeting. Notable initiatives include the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital, the NGA project, Military Missouri Works legislation that has the Governor’s support; and 14 policy recommendations sent to the Kansas City Chamber Military Affairs Committee.

KBS Consultant Report - Mike DuBois advised that, for the first time in 10 years, Congress passed appropriation bills prior to the fiscal year. This assists in expediting funds to programs and services. He stated that the chairs of the Armed Services Committees for the House and Senate have different views on BRAC, with Senator Inhoffe adamantly opposing it and Representative Smith supporting it as a tool to pare down spending.

Missouri Veterans Commission Update – Grace Link gave an overview of the Veterans Commission, stating their focus is on quality care at the veterans homes. She stated about 700 veterans are on wait lists for homes. She advised that, until recently, medical paperwork was never required ahead of time, so many are not actually ready to transition to a veteran’s home. They are working on depleting the wait list. Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held at all five cemeteries. The Veterans Task Force was launched to address veterans’ needs. She stated there is a need for CNAs, LPNs and RNs. Commissioner Nelson will connect with her on possible placements.

Missouri National Guard Update - Don Koonce stated their focus is on Strength – Stationing – State. He advised that are actively supporting the Governor’s priorities on Infrastructure and Workforce.

Report on the National Geospatial- Intelligence Agency (NGA) – Discussion was held on the white paper update on NGA’s decision to locate its new campus in St. Louis. Special recognition to DED’s Michael Lanahan, who was the primary author of the white paper, and Julie Finn, consultant and coordinator on NGA issues.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2017-2018 Strategic Action Plan Update **–** Joe Driskill stated an in depth analysis is needed. There are currently three goals. Discussion held on which of the strategies are attainable and which need to be reevaluated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2019-2020 Biennial Strategic Plan – Joe would like to schedule public hearings after the first of year. Discussions will include how to focus on most important strategies. Chair Hagedorn stated there are too many items that are out of MMPEC’s control. Commissioner Ehrhardt agreed that there needs to be more focus. Mr. Newcomb suggested engaging senior leaders of installations for guidance. Mr. Parker suggested getting in front of a different audience than before. Commissioner Nelson warned not to lose sight of the three core goals.

Military Advocate Performance Evaluation – Discussion was held on the Performance Appraisal Committee’s report. Committee Chair Ehrhardt reported that the Committee recommends that MMPEC adopt a 3-part performance appraisal based on: goals for personal improvement; budget performance targets; and strategic goals. This evaluation will help to “tell our story.”

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby adopts the Performance Appraisal Committee’s recommendation for a formal MMPEC Executive Director Performance Evaluation, as submitted.

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

Military Appreciation Day – Mr. Driskill stated the 2017 Military Appreciation Day was very successful; 2018 had to be canceled. Proposing February/March 2019, but working with the General Assembly on available dates. Discussion was held on structure. Commissioner Ehrhardt stated that while the luncheon at Governor’s Mansion is very nice, he suggests a larger venue for greater attendance.

Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2019 – Discussion was held regarding conflicts.

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby adopts the Quarterly Meeting dates for 2019, as presented.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chair Hagedorn asked Mr. Driskill to report on the status of additional staff. He indicated that interviews have been conducted and he will continue to keep everyone updated when a candidate is hired.

It was noted that Steve Johnston recently retired from the St. Joseph Community Alliance to take on a new role in January. His support was applauded.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.