***FINAL*** **Minutes**

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**

**Regular Quarterly Meeting**

**Jefferson City, MO**

March 11, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, Interactive Center, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

MMPEC Members: Bob Hagedorn, Royal Turner, Hart Nelson, Steve Ehrhardt, Robert Russell (by phone), Senator Gina Walsh, Senator Wayne Wallingford (by phone), Representative Steve Lynch, Grace Link (Missouri Veterans Commission designee), and Military Advocate Joe Driskill (DED Director designee)

Guests: Emma Dillon, Mike Dubois, Julie Murphy Finn, Representative Bradley Pollitt, John Hixson, Austin Korns, Jeff Huffman, Patt Lilly, Col. Chris Callis, Jerrod Wheeler, Karl Kramer, Don Koonce, Keith Crumley, Suzanne Taylor, Kent Thomas, Greg Frencken, Ray Bozarth, Rachel Gilroy, and Jim Brown (by phone)

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. and roll was called. A quorum was established with eight statutory members and two ex-officio member designees participating. Guests were introduced.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting, as submitted.

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

**REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS**

Whiteman Area Leadership Council -- Greg Frencken gave an update on his work on behalf of the WALC and his role as an Air Force Global Strike Command Civic Leader. He indicated that he was learning a great deal from his travels to different bases and that he has a whole new perspective on what WALC and other groups should be doing to support Whiteman. He indicated that a local strategic plan was a good start.

Whiteman Base Community Council. Karl Kramer, President of the BCC, gave a brief update about the BCC and its work to connect Airmen and their families with the communities within the WAFB region. He, too, indicated a great desire for the region to adopt a strategic plan to guide community/installation support efforts.

Fort Leonard Wood – Jim Brown, Assistant Chief of Staff at Fort Leonard Wood, apologized for not being able to attend in person but he wanted to make sure that the installation was represented. He said that Major General Donna Martin, the Fort Leonard Wood CG, is focused on building good relationships with community and state leaders and that effort seems to be going well. He also indicated that COL (ret) Greg Thompson, the just retired CoS for the Army War College and also former head of FLW’s CDID organization, is the new Deputy to the Commanding General

Whiteman Air Force Base – Col. Chris Callis reported briefly on the prospects for MILCON funding of a vehicle maintenance facility at Whiteman and also the status of a wastewater plant project with the city of Knob Noster wherein the city would be able to connect to WAFB’s system to make for greater efficiency and save money. He also indicated that Brig Gen John Nichols will be leaving WAFB in May for another assignment, and that there will be a large air show—Wings over Whiteman—on June 15-16. He also noted how valuable the BCC’s Home for the Holidays program had been, indicating that in his 23 years in the AF, he is seeing the best relationship with the community.

Rosecrans, 139th Airlift Wing – Patt Lilly, President and CEO of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, gave an update on several initiatives and programs happening at Rosecrans, including the AEROVAC Unit, simulator facility, and modernization of several aircraft stored at the base. He indicated that a new person has been hired to replace Steve Johnston at the Community Alliance.

Sustainable Ozarks Partnership – Kent Thomas, Executive Director of the Leonard Wood Institute and Sustainable Ozarks Partnership (SOP), spoke about the researching being done on traumatic brain injuries at Fort Leonard Wood by the Leonard Wood Institute and the University of Missouri System. Thomas underscored how critical the research could be for both service members and civilians alike. Thomas spoke highly of the new commercial jet service to and from Fort Leonard Wood by Contour Air, and gave additional updates on SOP’s efforts to build new partnerships with the installation.

Missouri Veterans Commission Update – Grace Link gave an overview of many of the Missouri Veterans Commission priorities since the last meeting. Link spoke briefly about a Vietnam Veterans event sponsored by the MVC to be held at the Capitol on April 25, 2019. Link mentioned the new Veterans Innovation Task Force (VITF), which was launched to address veterans’ needs, and said that she has been in communication with consulting groups who plan to conduct a veterans’ needs study. Link said a veterans’ needs study must be conducted before the MVC can request any additional grants or programs from the VA. Link stated that there are now less than 200 veterans on the wait list for homes and noted that it is because many veterans were seeking long term care, which is not what the homes offer.

Missouri National Guard – Don Koonce gave updates about Camp Crowder and Camp Clark, both MO National Guard facilities located in southwestern Missouri. Koonce presented the 2018 MO National Guard Economic Impact Report. Koonce also spoke about the upcoming Vigilant Guard exercise later this year that will be a full scale simulation of the response needed for a major earthquake in the New Madrid Fault. He indicated that the Guard is hosting participants from many agencies from around the country.

Military Advocate Quarterly Update – Joe Driskill spoke about his many engagements since the last Commission meeting in December 2018, including with the Association of Defense Communities (ADC). Driskill mentioned many of the issues the Office of the Military Advocate continues to focus on, like the Missouri Works Military legislation being considered by the Missouri General Assembly (including a hypothetical case), the National Security Crossroads, and Midwest Defense Alliance. Driskill stated that the ADC conference he recently attended went well, with record attendance, and cited many of the initiatives addressed during the conference. Driskill also spoke about several quality of life issues affecting service members that both his office and ADC continue to focus on.

Kit Bond Strategies Consultant Report – Mike Dubois reported on several of the priority initiatives of the consultants working with the Office of the Military Advocate, including the sustainment and modernization of the B-2s, GEOINT industry outreach, and the protection and growth of TRADOC equities. Dubois spoke at length about MILCON priorities, such as the simulator facility at Rosecrans, the vehicle maintenance facility at Whiteman, and grants awarded to Lake City Army Ammunition Plant. Dubois mentioned President Trump’s budget, which was released yesterday, and several other issues related to the appropriations process. Dubois also went through the major military installations in the state and discussed several priorities for each, including the AEROVAC unit at Rosecrans, the B-21 bomber at Whiteman, and the GLWACH hospital replacement at Fort Leonard Wood. Dubois updated the group on several initiatives focused on Jefferson Barracks KBS has been working toward.

Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies – Although Michele Weigand was unable to attend, Joe Driskill gave the group a very brief update on the National Security Crossroads (formerly the National Security Corridor) and the progress that has been made recently between Missouri and Kansas.

St. Louis Economic Development Partnership – John Hixson gave a presentation about how Missouri’s defense industry impacts the economy in our state. Hixson provided several visual images of how the defense contracting and defense personnel help different parts of Missouri, in rural counties and larger counties alike. Hixson specifically mentioned that St. Louis County benefits the most from major defense companies like Boeing. Hixon stated that although most defense contracts are awarded to small businesses, large companies receive most of the money. Hixson also presented a graphic which shows how Missouri defense exports are distributed across the world.

St. Louis Development Corporation – Austin Korns and Julie Murphy Finn spoke about the new NGA project, N2W, underway in north St. Louis. Korns and Finn presented the group a broad overview of NGA’s history in St. Louis and the new N2W site. Korns and Finn mentioned NGA’s benefit to both the city of St. Louis and Missouri and advocated for the GEOINT “cluster” in the St. Louis region. Korns and Finn reported that there is an in-depth study underway which will help the GEOINT cluster to grow, authored by the same researchers who performed a similar study about establishing a plant and life sciences cluster in St. Louis years ago.

University of Central Missouri – Jeff Huffman updated the Commission on the University of Central Missouri’s two-part study on Missouri’s military friendliness. The first phase of the report featured a comprehensive review of Missouri policies and programs while the second component included an analysis of policies affecting service members and their families in states other than Missouri. Huffman described their research process, which included surveying service members and their families and conducting focus groups. Huffman included example survey questions and responses from focus group participants. Huffman concluded by mentioning the recommendations his team will release shortly as the conclusion to the study.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2019 Military Appreciation Day – Joe Driskill updated the Commission on his office’s progress on holding a Military Appreciation Day during the month of March 2019. He mentioned that there is very little time and interest from the Missouri General Assembly, which may hinder the potential of an event held later this month. Driskill suggested the possibility of a much smaller event to be held later this spring. Discussion was held about whether or not planning an event in this period of time was possible and whether a smaller event could be planned. Commissioner Russell expressed that the March 27th date was far too soon and that the event may not be necessary this year. Chair Hagedorn and Commissioner Nelson agreed that not holding a Military Appreciation Day two years in a row is trending in the wrong direction and expressed interest in a smaller event later this year.

2019-2020 Biennial Strategic Plan – Joe Driskill mentioned that the Commission’s current strategic plan has lapsed as of January 1, 2019 and suggested the Commission conduct a virtual town hall to gather input for the 2019-2020 strategic plan. Driskill updated members on the research that has been done in his office regarding how to conduct a virtual town hall. Discussion was held regarding the costs and benefits of conducting a town hall online rather than in person. Driskill said he would keep the Commission members abreast about any developments from his office regarding how to gather input.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2018 Annual Report – Joe Driskill presented each member of the Commission with a draft copy of the 2018 MMPEC Annual Report. Commissioner Nelson expressed his approval of the report several times. Chair Hagedorn agreed that the report looked good, but urged members to reach out to Driskill or Emma Dillon if they find any information that needs to be changed.

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby adopts the 2018 Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission Annual Report, as presented.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Commissioner Russell expressed concern about expiring terms of commissioners and asked Mr. Driskill about the status of new appointments. Mr. Driskill reported that he spoke with the Governor earlier this year and that the Governor intends to appoint new members to the Commission after legislative session ends in May. Mr. Driskill predicted there would be new Commission members by the June meeting.

Driskill indicated that the June meeting will be on Tuesday, June 4 in Jefferson City at a location to be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.