

**Minutes**  
**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting**  
**Jefferson City, MO**  
September 30, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

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

MMPEC Members: Robert Hagedorn, Royal Turner, Steve Ehrhardt (by phone), Hart Nelson (by phone), Rep. Steve Lynch, Colonel Grace Link (Missouri Veterans Commission designee), Joe Driskill (DED Director designee)

Guests: Emma Dillon, Mike Dubois, Don Koonce, Tama Wagner, Chris Stockdale, Keith Crumley, Norman Lucas, Dorsey Newcomb, Kasie Lercher, Stephen Standifird, Randell Gelzer, Scotty Allen, Suzanne Taylor, Karl Kramer, Greg Frencken, Larry Sexton, Harold Stewart, Ray Bozarth, Brett Cox, Rachel Gilroy, Brenda Horstman, Tyler Trusk, Zatuilla Nara, Andrea Goodson (by phone), Luke Lewis (by phone)

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and roll was called. A 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 June 4, 2019 meeting, as submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Representative Steve Lynch. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS**

Whiteman Installation Report – Karl Kramer spoke briefly about Whiteman's focus on base resiliency and the numerous programs Whiteman has in place to address it. Kramer spoke specifically about the comments of appreciation Col. Eaves has made about the community and the successful drill weekend recently completed at the base. Kramer also spoke about the Airman Home for the Holidays initiative that Whiteman Base Community Council has sponsored in the past and indicated that the group will sponsor the same program this year.

Andrea Goodson gave the group an update about the Spirit Trail in Warrensburg and Knob Noster successfully connecting to Knob Noster State Park, which had been the Spirit Trail Coalition's most recent phase of construction. Goodson went on to inform the Commission about the FLAP (Federal Land Access Program) grant that Knob Noster State Park will submit later this year. Goodson said if the Park was to be awarded the grant, it would help connect the trail through Knob Noster State Park to Whiteman. The current trail stops at the perimeter of the park and does not connect to Whiteman. Joe Driskill asked about the timing of the FLAP grant submission. Goodson said the grant will be submitted in December by

Knob Noster State Park and that Whiteman Air Force Base will write a letter of support. Ray Bozarth, representing the office of U.S. Senator Josh Hawley, indicated that Senator Hawley's office will also write a letter of support.

Rosecrans, 139<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing – Tama Wagner spoke briefly about the groundbreaking for the new communications facility at Rosecrans. Wagner said that the St. Joseph and Rosecrans communities remain focused on the C-130H modernization issue and trying to get the aeromedical evacuation unit at Rosecrans. Commissioner Turner mentioned that the St. Joseph Community Alliance/Memorial Base recently applied for the Military Community Reinvestment Grant Opportunity. Wagner thanked the Commission for helping sponsor such a grant opportunity and said the community is looking forward to the Commission's decision.

Fort Leonard Wood – Kasie Lercher gave Deputy Commanding General Gregg Thompson's regrets for not attending the meeting. Lercher spoke about the end of the federal fiscal year and how the base is spending down the remainder of its funds. Lercher said all of the leaders at the installation are in place and that the installation is well situated. Lercher mentioned that the priorities of Fort Leonard Wood are the same as the Army and that the base's major contribution to the Army's readiness priority is all of the training that takes place at Fort Leonard Wood. Lercher spoke about the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) hiring fair that took place at FLW recently and said that while about 300 people attended, 59 people had on-the-spot interviews and each one received an offer. Lercher reminded the Commission of MG Martin's focus on education and recruiting and suggested Joe Driskill could potentially help host a Board of Education meeting at the installation to help with MG Martin's initiatives related to recruiting education. Lercher also suggested that the base may write a letter to the Secretary of the Army to let them know about the great education system surrounding Fort Leonard Wood. Lercher mentioned that the base is celebrating 20 years of being the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and that there will be celebratory events happening in the near future. Finally, Lercher said the base is preparing for the national AUSA convention in Washington, D.C. this month and mentioned that the base is sponsoring 18 service members to attend the conference.

Dorsey Newcomb said the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership is receiving great support from Fort Leonard Wood and the surrounding community. Newcomb recognized Kent Thomas' retirement from the organization in July and told the Commission that he will be the new Executive Director following Thomas' retirement. Newcomb spoke about the SOP Annual Meeting on August 22 which included 200 community members in Waynesville. Newcomb mentioned that U.S. Senator Roy Blunt and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe attended the meeting. Newcomb spoke about the announcement of a new MILCON project at FLW to help fund the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH) and said the community hopes for a notice to proceed shortly. Newcomb expressed some excitement about the almost 700 potential construction jobs that the project will create. Newcomb mentioned the OEA grant that SOP is working toward that would ideally mitigate some of the job loss in the past in the FLW area. Newcomb spoke about the 14 research projects that have been funded by the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership and the Leonard Wood Institute and elaborated about the traumatic brain injury study that the organization has focused their resources on over the last year. Newcomb expressed the organization's appreciation of the Military Community Reinvestment Grant Opportunity and said the organization is looking forward to the results of the Commission's decision. Newcomb reminded the Commission about the commercial jet service out of FLW and expanded upon Goodson's comments regarding the AUSA conference this month. Newcomb said other chapters don't typically sponsor soldiers at AUSA, but that the Fort Leonard Wood group is taking full advantage of the commercial jet

service by utilizing it for their travel to AUSA. Finally, Newcomb spoke about the organization's work with Ozark Technical College to create opportunities for transitioning service members and their families.

Missouri Veterans Commission – Col. Grace Link updated the Commission about how the proceeds from the tax incurred on medical marijuana sales in Missouri will be allocated within the Missouri Veterans Commission. Col. Link said the Missouri Veterans Commission is still determining how those funds will be divided up within their organization and could not provide specifics to the Commission at this time. Col. Link told the Commission that the MVC has hired Scotty Allen as their new General Counsel. Allen previously served as the administrator of the Military Legal Assistance team in the Missouri Attorney General's office. Col. Link said MVC is focused on outreach to all of the veterans who have unresolved claims in Missouri and that the organization is in the process of hiring more staff to help with this effort. Col. Link said the MVC had a great celebration for Vietnam War veterans earlier this year and that another celebration for Korean War veterans will take place in December. Col. Link gave the Commission a brief update about the veteran home waiting list and encouraged all who are able to participate in the Race Across America event for state veteran cemeteries.

Missouri National Guard – Don Koonce extended greetings from the new the new Adjutant General, BG Levon Cumpton and spoke about the strong team Cumpton has assembled since becoming the TAG. Koonce named all of the new leadership team in the TAG's office by name and said he has no doubt that the team will be successful. Koonce mentioned the MO National Guard's participation in the SkillUP workforce development initiative in light of Governor Parson's focus on workforce development. Koonce spoke about the Missouri State Defense Force, which was highlighted at the last MMPEC meeting in June. Koonce said the MO National Guard is reviewing the program and making sure that the program is utilizing the correct philosophy. Koonce explained that the MO National Guard is trying to grow the group to make sure there is a secondary support group in Missouri. Koonce said the State Defense Force is growing at the rate of 5 to 6 members a week and that the National Guard wants to use the program to draw people to Missouri.

Missouri Attorney General's Office – Scotty Allen reminded the Commission about the Military Legal Assistance team and the benefits it provides to service members in Missouri. Allen said the team has been successful in placing every case that has been requested. Allen mentioned that his team has been conducting clinics throughout Missouri and has two clinics coming up in St. Louis and Poplar Bluff at VA facilities. Allen said the Attorney General's office has decided to remove veterans from the purview of the Military Legal Assistance team and that the team will now only be serving active service members. Allen also mentioned that he will be transferring to the Missouri Veterans Commission to be the organization's General Counsel and that Brandon Gibson will be his replacement at the Attorney General's Office.

Missouri Military Advocate Update – Joe Driskill, the Missouri Military Advocate and Executive Director of MMPEC, gave the Commission an update on his efforts and initiatives within the Department of Economic Development and on behalf of MMPEC. Driskill updated the commission on his office's priority initiatives since the June 4 meeting and extending until the Commission's next meeting in December, including a new strategic plan; an economic impact report; a comprehensive plan to address attraction and retention of service members, families, and veterans; the National Security Crossroads; the MO Military Community Reinvestment Program; Military Appreciation Day; a Geo-Ecosystem Working Group; and the Midwest Defense Alliance. During his briefing, Driskill mentioned during a conversation about defense assets in Missouri that the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant,

formally operated by Northrup Grumman, will be operated by Olin Winchester. Driskill's briefing primarily focused on the effort to track his office's performance measures over the past year and in future years. Driskill spent a significant portion of his briefing explaining his office's FY2020 appropriations to the group, which includes the MO Military Community Reinvestment Program and language to be the recipient of a DoD Office of Economic Adjustment grant for the National Security Crossroads initiative. While discussing his office's 2020 appropriations, Driskill gave the Commission an idea about how his office interacts with key stakeholders, including military installations, agency influencers, separating military service members, and decision-makers at Missouri defense businesses. Driskill also updated the Commission about his service as the President of the Association of Defense Communities, which he has spent significant time focusing his attention on since he was elected in June. Driskill gave the Commission an overview of his duties and mentioned his recent and upcoming travel to fulfill his duties as President of the organization. Finally, Driskill gave the Commission an overview of some dates of interest. Rachel Gilroy, representing Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler's office, mentioned that the Procurement/PTAC Conference is still set to happen in November and that some special guests will be in attendance. At the end of his briefing, Driskill mentioned that his staff person will be leaving at the end of the week. The Commission expressed their appreciation for her service.

Consultant Update – Mike Dubois, of Kit Bond Strategies, briefed the Commission on the priorities his team has focused their attention on to support the Office of the Military Advocate and MMPEC since the June 4, 2019 meeting. After Dubois outlined some of his team's key initiatives in 2020, Dubois let Randell Gelzer, representing Boeing, speak about several of the priorities at Boeing this year. Gelzer spoke about several developments at Boeing, including aircraft and workforce related issues. Gelzer expressed appreciation for the partnership with KBS and mentioned the MO Aerospace and Auto Supplier Show in St. Louis next week. While discussing the group's key FY20 MILCON priorities, Dubois mentioned the issue of potentially capping the level of technicians and how it will impact projects like AVCRAG/TASMG. Joe Driskill said that Missouri defense companies have an interesting set of circumstances considering how many Missouri-based companies have won the bids for several of the top MILCON priorities. Dubois spoke about the Geospatial Ecosystem, which has been spearheaded by the Kit Bond Strategies team, and mentioned the GEOINT 2019 Conference in San Antonio earlier this year. Gelzer asked if the GEOINT Conference is a conference for the geospatial industry similar to the Army's AUSA conference. Dubois confirmed that it is. Following Dubois' description of several of the itemized priorities at each major defense installation in Missouri, Gelzer added that the groundbreaking for the new Boeing weapons facility in St. Charles was last month and that Boeing plans to add a second facility in the future. Gelzer also mentioned that there is another ribbon-cutting at Cortex, which will add about 70 jobs. Gelzer and Dubois thanked Congresswoman Hartzler and Senator Hawley for their work on the issue. At the end of the briefing, Driskill mentioned that ESRI has announced that every school district in Missouri will have access to their mapping software.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

2020-2022 MMPEC Strategic Plan Update – Joe Driskill briefed the Commission on his office's efforts to craft a new biennial military and defense strategic plan for Missouri since the June meeting. Driskill began by outlining how his office collected about 250 responses from stakeholders throughout the state and country. Driskill gave the commission an overview of the virtual town hall process that his office used to collect the responses and explained the five categories of questions used to solicit responses. From the responses collected through the town hall and an analysis of competing states, Driskill said, he was able to create a draft plan for the years of 2020-2022. Driskill walked the Commission through the

changes to the 2017-2019 strategic plan, including a changed focus on retention of separating service members and their families, a change in the number and direction of strategies of each goal, and strategies which are connected to performance measures in his office's FY2021 budget submission. Driskill guided the Commission through each of the three goals individually and addressed each of the six strategies related to each goal. During Driskill's presentation, Don Koonce mentioned that barriers need to be removed for service members to be employed with Missouri companies who emphatically want to hire transitioning service members and veterans. While discussing the second goal, Driskill asked Chris Stockdale, a professor who the Department of Economic Development has hired to write a plan regarding how to attract and retain transitioning service members and veterans in Missouri. Stockdale mentioned that his team spent about 2 years on two separate studies that asked service members and their families about the barriers that need to be removed. Stockdale said employment was the top priority for everyone and that after separation, service members and their spouses often look to move to states that have great opportunities for military spouses. Stockdale also spoke about how license reciprocity is another huge barrier. Stockdale said when service members and spouses were surveyed, a significant majority said they would absolutely not stay in MO because of the lack of job opportunities. Driskill mentioned that spouses often make the decision where to move after their spouse separates from the military. Stockdale confirmed Driskill's statement and said it's difficult for military spouses to get good jobs because they are systematically disadvantaged when they move around constantly and may take a step back in their career with every new move. Driskill said other states are focusing on this issue, especially luring transitioning service members and veterans to their states following separation. Driskill said Wisconsin is especially doing a great job, including at the FLW TAP job fair where they essentially bought out the whole job fair. Driskill underscored the importance of a marketing campaign on behalf of Missouri. Dorsey Newcomb asked about other states' effective license reciprocity laws. Driskill said there is a broad spectrum regarding license reciprocity throughout the United States, but that Missouri lands somewhere in the middle. Newcomb suggested that once Missouri creates effective license reciprocity laws, service members and their families will know that Missouri is serious in trying to make itself the most military friendly state in the nation. At the end of the discussion, Rep. Lynch said that Fort Leonard Wood is the economic engine of his district and that many in the General Assembly don't realize how much FLW and other military installations contribute to Missouri's economy. Driskill recommended that the Commission send out a draft plan to stakeholders for comment before voting to adopt the plan at the December meeting.

Development Strategies Economic Impact Report – Mike Dubois began by informing the Commission that 2 years have passed since the last economic impact report was conducted and that when our legislative and congressional leaders want to tell the story about the economic impact of military and defense spending in Missouri, they need to have up to date information. Dubois mentioned that Kit Bond Strategies will be supplying the qualitative facet of the study. Dubois went on to say that the Development Strategies team, who have been performing the majority of research for the report, has worked with the KBS team for years and supplied the economic impact data in 2012/2013. Dubois expressed his appreciation for all of the installations working with the Development Strategies team to fulfill all the data requests and went on to explain the IMPLAN model to the Commission. Dubois explained that the report will include fiscal years 2017 and 2018, but that 2019, which was a big year for Missouri, both in terms of new technology and payroll, will not be included. Dubois suggested the numbers will be promising. Commissioner Turner asked if military bases are included in the "\$14B in Total Spending" icon on Dubois' slide, or if it only represents defense contractors. Dubois said it includes both, but does not include the entire department of energy. Don Koonce suggested there has been significant growth in tandem with the Governor's workforce development priorities. Joe Driskill praised

Development Strategies for doing a great job in terms of strategy and analysis. Driskill said there is great difference between the information his office receives from the Office of Economic Adjustment in D.C. and the information he receives directly from the installation. Driskill mentioned that he would like to create a standardized process that his office will recommend be done every two years and that, even though the information will lag every year or two, it will be better than the information that folks in D.C. can produce because it will be current. Driskill mentioned potentially using the finished report from Development Strategies as an announcement during the 2020 Military Appreciation Day. Chairman Hagedorn said he has heard rumor of a multi-billion dollar contract signed by Cerner and wondered if that would be reflected in the data. Driskill said it will and that the previous study was before Cerner's contract, so it wasn't included. Dubois also mentioned that with the move of Boeing headquarters to Northern Virginia, the study wants to affirm that the vast majority of economic impact was still taking place in Missouri. Brett Cox asked whether there would be analysis of what kind of economic impact would happen regionally would be reflected in the report. Dubois said it would. Driskill said a difficulty is figuring out where all the reserve units are in Missouri and then asking them questions that they will answer regarding budget, personnel (PT, FT, salary), etc. Driskill said reaching them is difficult because there needs to be a connection established. Keith Crumley asked if Driskill or DS have reached out to Marine Corps headquarters in New Orleans. Driskill said they have in the past but it's still difficult.

Veteran Innovation Task Force – Joe Driskill gave the Commission some background on the Veteran Innovation Task Force overall. Driskill went through his work group's recommendations individually and then turned the floor over to Chris Stockdale, who researched and drafted a white paper to support the recommendations. Stockdale said the property tax recommendation and said MO's property task law is possibly the most restrictive in the country (must be 100% disabled and a prison of war), so very few people would qualify. Stockdale also mentioned the credit for military education and said that the higher education system in Missouri doesn't translate as military education and there is a need to perform an analysis to "speak the same language" and give credits that transfer. Driskill mentioned a meeting he and Stockdale attended with the University of the Army and said that they are using national standards to transfer military MOS education to traditional university credits. Brett Cox said if the UCM is not accepting the University of the Army as a standardized source, there needs to be someone enforcing it as a standardized source. Stockdale said Kansas just launched their program to transfer MOS education to college credits. Driskill said the commissioner of higher education has come back to the VITF work group with a policy statement. Driskill suggested if folks know that Missouri honors these credits, they will be more likely to say here. Stockdale underscored the importance of creating a one-stop shop that has comprehensive resources to help transitioning service members, veterans, and their families. Keith Crumley said MO Southern said they used to have a "Portfolio Program" which would create a "resume on steroids" for separating service members. Col. Link reminded the Commission that the team at the Missouri Veterans Commission will present the group's recommendations to the Governor's office. Driskill asked the commission to approve of the recommendations he presented.

**RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby approves the recommendations submitted by the Veterans Innovation Task Force – Transition Assistance Working Group, as presented.

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

Consideration of Additional Legislation and/or Policy Changes – Joe Driskill opened the floor to ideas from the Commission and guests. Dorsey Newcomb said that the Missouri Military Advocate position is

integral to the state and to the Commission. Newcomb asked that the Commission think about the tenure and future of the position. Newcomb expressed his absolute support and appreciation for the current Military Advocate. Greg Frencken and Don Koonce echoed their support of the current Military Advocate.

2020 Military Appreciation Day Update – Joe Driskill briefed the Commission of the tentatively scheduled Military Appreciation Day set to take place on Wednesday, February 5, 2019. Driskill said with the help of the Department of Economic Development's new legislative director, Philip Arnzen, he was able to get Military Appreciation Day on the Governor's calendar for February 5. Driskill went through each item his draft schedule of the day and reminded the Commission of the schedule of the 2017 Military Appreciation day. Chairman Hagedorn said there are lots of moving pieces in this day and recommended that the MMA team do the best they can to prioritize what is important among the moving parts. Commissioner Turner asked if Driskill's team is trying to get sponsors to the event and whether or not that would impede legislators from attending the events of the day. Driskill suggested he will need to get an ethics ruling on this and that he is fairly confident that there are ways for legislators to attend. Rep. Lynch agreed that there is some leeway but that Driskill will need to look into the ethics question. Dorsey Newcomb wondered if this would be an opportunity to have something in parallel for military spouses to do something with the First Lady. Driskill said it would and that his team will work with other groups to invite more people from installations. Chairman Hagedorn said there are lots of flexibility and Driskill's team should use it to their advantage. Chairman Hagedorn also expressed caution that inviting military spouses to the luncheon at the Governor's Mansion because it would likely exceed the amount of people Driskill hopes to invite. Commissioner Turner said he would be in favor of going to a bigger, outside site. Driskill agreed and said he hopes to invite someone from the Department of Defense who can appeal to everyone. Newcomb said the speaker needs to be someone who can advocate for our state at a higher level. Driskill agreed and said he hopes the day will make some news. Rep. Lynch said he will work on whatever Joe asks him to.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Military Community Reinvestment Grant Program – Brenda Horstman introduced herself and her team, Zatuilla Nara and Tyler Trusk, to the Commission. Horstman gave a brief overview of the Military Community Reinvestment Program, including the expected timeline, funding availability, eligible applicants, evaluation, and reporting requirements. Horstman mentioned that September 30, the day of the meeting, was the final day for applicants to submit applications and that her team will likely provide recommendations to the Commission within the next month. Commissioner Turner asked if the community that receives the grant must spend all of the money in one year. Nara clarified that it will be costs incurred and that DED will help with this process. Commissioner Turner asked if the applicants will have an opportunity to amend their applications. Horstman said it will depend, but DED will work with the applicants. Driskill said the Business and Community Solutions team is in charge of many other programs as well and that this program exists within their many other responsibilities. Chairman Hagedorn asked what would happen if the Commission were to deny or amend the grant program application when it comes time to approve/deny the applications. Horstman said it would depend and that DED can work with the commission if that were the case. Chairman Hagedorn asked how long a denial would delay the process. Horstman reiterated that DED will work with the commission in that case.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Commissioner Turner asked about the next meeting, especially the potential meeting in October. Driskill clarified that the potential meeting in October will be by phone, but that the next MMPEC meeting will be on December 3, 2019. Commissioner Turner asked if the next meeting will take place in the same facility. Driskill said his team will try to secure the same facility for the December meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Representative Lynch. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.