

Minutes
Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
Quarterly Meeting
Jefferson City, MO

June 2, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held by conference call placed from the home of Joe Driskill, Jefferson City, MO, 65101, due to the special circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MMPEC Members: Bob Hagedorn, Greg Frencken, Steve Ehrhardt, Hart Nelson, Steve Wallach, Senator Wayne Wallingford, Senator Gina Walsh, Representative Steve Lynch, and Military Advocate Joe Driskill (DED Director Designee)

Guests: Donna Barkefelt, Jason Long, Norman Lucas, Matt C, Jerrod Wheeler, Scotty, Michelle Weigand, Julie Finn, Adam Timmerman, Dorsey Newcomb, Margaret Kremer-Coyne, Rachel Gilroy, Scotty Allen, Suzanne Taylor, Thomas Shaw, Ray Bozarth, Mike Dubois, and Hannah Stash

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Hagedorn and roll was called. A quorum was established with eight statutory members and one ex-officio member designee participating. Guests were introduced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Nelson made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 3 and March 27 meetings. Commissioner Wallach seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

Office of the Military Advocate Report – Joe Driskill reported that he continues to do as much outreach as possible, even though he is unable to travel. He took a few weeks off from doing his weekly updates, but he is back to doing that. Additionally, he is interested in doing social media, but his office needs a communications plan and the creation of that has been interrupted.

Driskill sent congratulations to Rep. Lynch, Sen. Walsh, and Sen. Wallingford for their leadership in getting the military spouse license reciprocity bill passed so spouses now have full license reciprocity in Missouri. The Secretary of Defense recently called Governor Parson to discuss license reciprocity and other issues; his office prompted that call.

The legislative session was very short, but still successful. His office is tracking their metrics with the department for FY 2020 as well as strategic plan goals.

The last meeting Driskill travelled for was with Boeing and elected officials in STL on March 14. Prior to that, on March 4, he met with WAFB leaders and Base Community Council. On March 8, he attended an Air Force Site survey team dinner at St. Joseph. All additional meetings since then have been by telephone or video.

Since the state's response to COVID-19 started, Driskill's responsibility has been to focus on what congress is doing related to stimulus funding; he reports that his consultants have been a big help with keeping track of that.

Next, Joe Driskill introduced Jason Long, a GS-15 employee at NGA and the loan to state government. He will be helping the state learn how it can use geospatial intelligence systems across state government to make better policy decisions.

Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, currently operated by Northrup Grumman, will be transferring over this fall to the Olin Corporation. Dr. Jette, the Head of Defense Manufacturing at the Department of Defense, will be visiting Lake City this week. Unfortunately he won't be meeting with the Governor, but Driskill's office will be tracking his visit.

Driskill reported that he and his assistant, Hannah Stash, have both been participating in the COVID-19 fusion cell. There are 100+ people on this daily call from other state departments; the main focus is on community testing and tracking where the disease is. DED is leading policy-making response for business recovery. In addition to tracking federal stimulus legislation, Driskill has made sure to be in contact with all of Missouri's military agencies/installations and its largest defense companies. He also been in touch with Ft. Leonard Wood and the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership to work with them on a plan to conduct community testing as well as a better strategic communications plan. He is also participating in the business microcell, which is designed to eliminate barriers to recovery and foster short and long-term growth.

Driskill reported that spousal employment is not fully understood in Missouri, so the opportunity to work with Blue Star Families is important. His team is still interested in job matching and retention, so they have been working with DED and DHEWD on some ideas related to how they can do that better. Hannah has written a draft white paper along with DHEWD about working toward uniformity in providing educational credits for military education. Currently, there is no uniform approach to this, and the state needs to communicate that Missouri is a great place for the military and retirees.

The National Security Crossroads Initiatives is coming along well; Missouri has now submitted a grant application to the Office of Economic Adjustment. The state is waiting on OEA to provide feedback and information on when they might be able to award that grant. This is a cooperative project the state has been able to do with the State of Kansas and their Dept. of Commerce as well as Driskill's counterpart there.

Driskill mentioned that the GeoFutures report will talk about opportunities going forward for attracting talent and companies, not only to support NGA, but also to create a commercial industry in St Louis. Some of Driskill's additional interests include working with Missouri S&T to establish an Army-focused R&D center. Their symposium was scheduled for the 1st of June, but it had to be rescheduled.

Colonel Grace Link has left her role as Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC). She is now the facilities director at the VA hospital in Columbia. Driskill said that Grace was great to work with and is sorry to see her go, but he believes she will do great work with the VA.

The FY2021 Budget goes into effect July 1st. The operating budget is \$606,071. The Missouri Military Community Reinvestment Program is a joint request from DED (Business and Community Solutions). The amount for this is now \$110,698 (was reduced from \$300,000), and the decrease reflects usage through the time the budget was being debated because it got a slow launch. Additionally, there is a new appropriation line for the OEA grant and the National Security Crossroads Initiatives. Additional withholding and restrictions are likely as state revenues are down and the federal government has not provided funding to backfill this declining money. The federal money the state has received has very strict guidelines for how it can be used. Driskill reported that he has been asked to send the Governor's Office some suggestions for restrictions/withholdings for the military advocate's budget.

Joe then provided progress updates on his office's strategic plans.

Next, there was a question from a meeting attendee regarding who will be replacing Col. Grace Link at the MVC. Scotty Allen, the general counsel with the MVC, said they do not have a replacement for her yet, but they have narrowed down the candidates and hope to have someone appointed by mid-June.

For his role as President of the Association of Defense Communities (ADC), Joe attends a weekly telephone meeting with staff, a monthly Executive Committee telephone meeting, and board meetings by video. ADC has been working with Blue Star Families and Booz Allen Hamilton on the COVID-19 Military Support Initiative (CMSI). This initiative provides a series of presentations over a variety of subjects. Congressional and Pentagon outreach has included supporting the Office of Economic Adjustment with authorization language as well as supporting implementation of DCIP and new funding for FY 2021. Finally, the national summit in Washington, DC on June 8-10 has been postponed to October 14-16, 2020 after the AUSA Annual Meeting.

Commissioner Nelson wanted to know whether other states across the country are doing testing for military families and communities. Joe's response was that he really did not know exactly what is happening across the country. The situation is kind of developing on the Army side of the world. At Ft. Leonard Wood, there is good communication and planning between the installation

and community, and community testing has occurred. There is a plan in place now for additional testing in the community. At Whiteman and at other Air Force installations, things are going smoothly. There are National Guard members deployed in Missouri who are helping out with testing and many other things.

Whiteman AFB Report – Suzanne Taylor provided the Whiteman AFB report. She said that things are going smoothly at the base under the circumstances with COVID-19. The Whiteman Area Leadership Council is pushing along with grants pending on two initiatives. Those are housing and childcare. Whiteman Base Community Council has been unable to host a community luncheon since February, but plans are underway to regroup in August, though the meeting may have to be virtual. The council continues to support families during this time.

Fort Leonard Wood Report – Dorsey Newcomb of the Leonard Wood Institute (LWI) gave a community update because the person giving the installation report had to drop off the line early. Fort Leonard Wood is very appreciative of the Military Advocate team, its consultants, and MMPEC. The LWI just hired a new deputy director by the name of Don Payne. He was an intern under the Army Career Skills Program and now he is being brought on full time. The Missouri Military Community Reinvestment Program closed out on May 29th. The funding helped move the needle for some strategic work the LWI has been trying to do. Additionally, they have worked with Ft. Leonard Wood, the state, and county, to perform mass testing. Testing was performed on the 16th and 17th of May and 695 people from the Pulaski Co. area were tested. There were no positive cases at that time.

They recently advocated for and saw the creation of a weekly call between Ft. Leonard Wood leaders and community and hospital leaders to discuss COVID and ideas. One new community initiative is the Pulaski Safe & Smart Pledge. Businesses can sign up voluntarily to pledge that they will take precautionary safety measures. This will lead to an increase in confidence amongst patrons as well as Ft. Leonard Wood leaders. ADC recently picked up the story about their strategic communication piece and published it on their online publication to draw attention to testing. The LWI is looking forward to working with Joe Driskill on Blue Star Families' Military Spouse Employment Survey. Finally, they are looking forward to working on attracting defense companies to the state.

Rosecrans – There was no one on the line to give a report.

NGA – There was no one on the line to give a report. Jason Long, the NGA employee that will be working with the state, introduced himself and said thanks for the invitation to the meeting.

Lake City Army Ammunition Plant – There was no one on the line to give a report.

Baker Donelson Briefing – Steve Hyjek from Baker Donelson gave a briefing on federal issues. First, there are some NDAA issues that must be solved: small nukes, COVID, and Space Force. When it comes to defense appropriations, a bill cannot even get marked up right now due to

conflicts between the House, the Senate, and the White House over a \$5 billion bill. Additionally, the legislative calendar is slow, but there is some budget certainty. The nation's GDP is likely to lose \$17 trillion between now and 2030. There will be a \$17.8 trillion deficit before FY21; 33 percent of national debt service is owned by China and Japan. Defense spending will be squeezed really hard in FY22 and beyond, and November's election will have an impact on it as well.

In regards to COVID, the Pentagon has been looking at it as an opportunity to have people telework and make sure cybersecurity is in place to allow employees to do so. Steve said that Ft. Leonard Wood does well when it comes to defense spending because of the importance of professional military education, and readiness, and being able to sustain the force. There has always been and will continue to be tension between active and reserve component spending. Lake City Army Ammunition Plant should be steady, but we will see how they do in the next two or three years. Whiteman AFB should be solid thanks to the B-2 and eventually the B-21 mission. At Rosecrans, there is some concern about the shelf life of some of the jets that are critical to their mission.

Steve expects relative stability in FY21 and believes we should be more worried about FY22 and beyond. The newer (younger) generation has different views on the importance of defense spending. That said, the military industry will continue to be a major economic driver in Missouri to the U.S. economy.

Question for Steve: What is your assessment for the potential of a BRAC in the near or intermediate future? Steve said he believed that as long as Chairman Inhofe is Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, there is not going to be a BRAC. If Republicans hold the Senate, there will not be a BRAC for the next four years at least. If that is to change, there will be pressure to do something in terms of infrastructure shedding, but that will likely be in the form of outsourcing, not a BRAC.

Kit Bond Strategies Briefing – Mike DuBois provided the Kit Bond Strategies briefing. Mike reported that for the first time in almost 19 years, the U.S. Air Force is now purchasing F-15s from Boeing again.

At Ft. Leonard Wood, KBS is working with others to continue to support construction of the new hospital as well as the staffing and personnel priority. There are no plans or desires to decrease services. The hospital has been offered a pilot Telehealth Army-sponsored partnership. A letter was sent by Sen. Blunt regarding the AIT barracks at Ft. Leonard Wood and this remains a priority.

In terms of the National Guard, the new MIKE model will be flying soon. Additionally, the team is continuing to push back on C-130H force reductions. For the Aeromedical Evacuation opportunity, the Air Force did site evaluations in February, but they are doing them over, this

time virtually. The evaluations will be done by the original evaluation team, so there should not be a disadvantage.

At Whiteman AFB, they are still planning for the first B-21 Bomber “Vector” flight in 2021. The T-38 needs to be modernized as it is very old. The A-10s are modernized and should be in service until 2030.

In regards to the NGA, Sen. Blunt helped get SCIF funding for the T-Rex co-working space in St. Louis and UMC CGI Project Maven. GeoRes 2020 has been postponed for October, and the GeoFutures rollout is anticipated for this month and into July.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Driskill reported that the State of Missouri will be submitting a proposal for the location of the operational headquarters of Space Force to be in Missouri. A RFP was put out by the Air Force recently for governors to propose a location for the operational headquarters, and the state is responding to it.

Military Appreciation Day had to be postponed in February and then cancelled in March, and there was hope that it could be held in the fall. However, now things are too uncertain with COVID and legislators’ schedules to hold it in the fall.

Next, commissioners discussed and approved a follow-up research study to the “Economic Impact of Military and Defense Spending in Missouri.” Next, Joe Driskill discussed a cooperative research project between the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership and Blue Star Families to study military spouse employment needs. This was also authorized by commissioners.

Joe Driskill requested a very brief MMPEC meeting by the end of the month for the executive director evaluation. Chairman Hagedorn has formed an evaluation committee and believes they can do the evaluation by the end of the month.

Chairman Hagedorn mentioned that his time as chairman is expiring. Joe Driskill needs to find a new chairman.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The following are the established meeting dates for the remainder of the year:

1. Tuesday, September 1, 2020
2. Tuesday, December 1, 2020
3. Special meetings by telephone or in-person, as needed

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm. Commissioner Nelson motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Ehrhardt seconded the motion.