

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

March 5, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held by conference call placed from Room 720 of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, MO, 65101.

MMPEC Members: Steve Ehrhardt, Royal Turner, Greg Frencken, Hart Nelson, Steve Wallach, Senator Steve Roberts, Senator Sandy Crawford, Joe Driskill (DED Director designee)

Guests: Col. Wilson, Alex Woodson, David Berczek, Greg Frencken, Tracy, Mike DuBois, Sue Pollmann, Dorsey Newcomb, Hannah Larrick, Tama Wagner, Zekita Armstrong Asuquo, Julie Murphy Finn, Jerrod Wheeler, Janel Rowell, Taylor Elwell, Herbert Crumley, Tracy Brantner, Gregg Thompson, Michele Weigand, Randell Gelzer, Norman Lucas, Steve Tupper, Rachel Gilroy, Steve Hyjek, Don Payne

WELCOME

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting, as submitted.

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

REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

Report from Brigadier General Charles Hausman (Missouri National Guard):

BG Hausman reported on military construction projects around the state. The Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots (AVCRAD) project in Springfield just finished phase three and they are also working on a readiness center. There are on-going projects in the north St. Louis and the Kansas City areas. The Missouri National Guard has been working with mass vaccination sites as well as targeted vaccine sites to focus on underserved communities.

Report from Sue Pollmann (N2W in St. Louis):

Ms. Pollman with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency reported that the N2W project is on schedule and within the budget. They have structural steel coming in, the concrete slab being poured, and underground utilities being laid. They were able to get their military construction funding secured, and they are now working on getting IT funding. NGA in the West is on Phase 4 on the COVID-19 front. Staff are only coming in as needed and they are maintaining social distancing. They are able to do unclassified work from home. They are moving along in their Moonshot Lab project at T-Rex and they hope to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the summer. The GeoResolution conference will be hosted again at STL University in September and the USGIF GEOINT symposium will be in STL this October. The GEOINT symposium is scheduled to be in St. Louis three of the next five years.

Report from Colonel Wilson (Standing in for Colonel Callis at Whiteman AFB):

Colonel Wilson reported that their focus between now and the next meeting is the busy summer coming up. They will be swapping out 10 of their 14 squadron commanders. Colonel Callis will be leaving, and Colonel Shriner will finish the change of command in the middle of June. They will have a nuclear surety test at the end of the summer. They plan to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the consolidated operations building, and they will be moving into it soon. The building was a \$30 million project. They will begin construction on the vehicle maintenance building at the beginning of summer.

Report from Gregg Thompson (Deputy to the CG at Ft. Leonard Wood):

DCG Thompson reported that their training load is remaining steady now in their projections through the remainder of the year. The new hospital's construction is underway and the project is going very well. On the COVID-19 front, they will be executing the second round of mass vaccines on March 5 and March 6 for those needing their second dose. He reported that they are working hard to figure out how to phase the reopening of the installation with intent to roll back some of the lockdown orders in spring. They will get postured to phase in public graduations, which is an Army order, so they are not ready yet. Sargent Major of the Army and the TRADOC Sargent Major visited in the recent weeks. Major General Bonner received his promotion to Major General last week. He also reported they will be losing two commandants this summer. Ft. Leonard Wood will be hosting a senior leadership forum in Ft. Leavenworth this year and they will be going through a chemical surety process this summer.

Joe Driskill commented that Pulaski Co. and Johnson Co. are lagging in the percentage being shown on the state dashboard in terms of vaccinations. They are both below the state average, but one reason for this is because DOD vaccination numbers have not been reported for security reasons.

Report from Tama Wagner with WALC:

Ms. Wagner reported that the Sound of Speed event will be coming up soon at Whiteman. She also discussed some of the military construction that is happening in the area. The new communication flight building is nearly complete and the new flight simulation wing is in its early phases.

Report from Dr. Jerrod Wheeler with WALC:

Dr. Wheeler reported that the council is continuing to move forward with housing and childcare studies and will report back outcome of those studies.

Report from Dorsey Newcomb with SOP:

Mr. Newcomb reported that their organization has had engagement with various individuals to discuss regional efforts to support soldiers and their families. He also reported that they are in the middle of updating their 3-year strategic plan.

Report from Joe Driskill (Missouri Military Advocate):

Mr. Driskill provided his executive director report.

First, Mr. Driskill gave a status update. He has had limited travel and has been primarily working from home. His team has continued their work within state government and on their federal priorities.

Mr. Driskill said that he has spent a lot of time on work related to Covid-19 economy recovery and vaccine efforts. He praised inter-agency teamwork and said he has never really seen anything like it. In Missouri, about 1.3 million doses have gone into peoples' arms.

He also reported that his office has done a lot of outreach in Washington, D.C. as well as monitoring of the change in administration. In Missouri, Governor Parson was recently able to release some of the restricted budget. Mr. Driskill is also working on the "One Military, One Community," policy paper with other Association of Defense Communities leaders.

Mr. Driskill also outlined their new Department of Defense priorities. These include: a complete strategy review; responding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic; invest in military family issues such as spousal employment and quality of life; invest in on-base and off-base infrastructure that supports missions and families; promote climate resilience and renewable energy for installations and communities; and address racism and inequality in the military and military communities.

Next, Mr. Driskill reported on his office's Missouri priorities. These include: the creation of a comprehensive plan relating to Service members, families, and veterans; the Geo-Ecosystem and NGA in St. Louis and the need for mission supporting efforts and off-site developments; the Department of Defense and Department of Energy organic industrial base, which includes Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri; the National Security Crossroads Initiative; Missouri research and development research capacity of interest to Department of Defense; building new partnerships such as local/regional organizations and military affairs councils, etc.; the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program; continuing outreach to transitioning personnel; and more.

Mr. Driskill discussed his office's 2021 game plan and the 2020-2022 state strategic plan. He also provided a strategic plan update and said that there has been progress made since the last meeting in December.

Mr. Driskill closed out his report by discussing the defense spending economic impact report that was conducted by Development Strategies and Kit Bond Strategies in St. Louis.

Consultant report from Steve Hyjek (Baker Donelson):

Mr. Hyjek reported on the first 60 days of the 117th Congress as well as the environment, focus, and anticipated future actions. He mentioned that Congress is going back to some normalcy after doing remote hearings for a while. Currently, Congress' main focus is on Covid-19, infrastructure, and the economy. There have been no service secretary nominations as of yet, and the Office of Management and Budget nomination had to be withdrawn; however, someone else has been nominated.

President Biden has issued some executive reports, some of which are of interest to Defense. These are:

- Buy American / Supply Chain.
- Inclusion of Domestic Policy Advisors in NSC.
- Reversal of transgender ban.

Consultant Report from Mike Dubois (Kit Bond Strategies):

Mr. Dubois of Kit Bond Strategies provided his consultant report. He said that the NGA and General Leonard Wood Community Hospital construction projects are both on sound footing. The 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph is still interested in the Air Evacuation Medical Mission that would add over 100 members to the wing. Across the state, the F-15EX is on track at Boeing. Mr. Dubois also reported that if the President's budget stands, FY 2021 will be the last year that Super Hornets are produced.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Driskill reported on the strategic planning committee's work. It was determined that the strategic plan was not very practical, so a committee was formed to review and edit it. Mr. Driskill discussed the suggested changes, which include: reducing the number of strategies under each goal to no more than four; simplifying the existing strategies and better aligning them with realistic measures to determine progress; and adding a new, internal goal with two strategies that focus on providing long-term sustainability to the Office of the Missouri Military Advocate.

Mr. Driskill also provided an overview of the Military Advocate and MMPEC funding. He reported that Governor Parson recommended full funding for the office and also released FY2021 funding. He then gave an update on the MCRG program.

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves the recommendations of the strategic planning committee as submitted.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioners Wallach, Nelson, and Turner volunteered to do Mr. Driskill's annual evaluation report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Note: To view the executive director and consultant report slides, please visit the following link:
<https://military.ded.mo.gov/reports>