

Minutes
Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
Special Meeting
Jefferson City, MO
June 1, 2021 –10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held in room 490-492 of the Harry S. Truman Building in Jefferson City.

MMPEC Members: Steve Ehrhardt, Royal Turner, Steve Wallach, Greg Frencken, Hart Nelson, Sen. Sandy Crawford, Sen. Steve Roberts, Rep. Bill Hardwick, Rep. Ashley Aune, and Military Advocate Joe Driskill (DED Director designee)

Guests: Hannah Hooven, MG Levon Cumpton, BG Charles Hausman, Gen (ret.) Robin Rand, Col. Jeffrey Paine, David Berczek, Randell Gelzer, Julie Murphy Finn, Steven Hyjek, Dorsey Newcomb, Grace Townsend, Tama Wagner, Stephen Standifird, Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Joe Scallorns, Herbert Keith Crumley, Lynn Lowder, Eric Wollerman, Jim Jamieson, Col. Matthew Calhoun, Hannah Larrick, Kaylin McCann, Dean Dorman

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Ehrhardt and roll was called. A quorum was established with seven statutory members and one ex-officio member designee participating.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves the minutes of the March 5 and April 23 meetings, as submitted. Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Frencken. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

MG Levon Cumpton – Missouri National Guard Adjutant General: Praised Missouri National Guard troops for their efforts in the fight against COVID-19. There is a plan to reduce the total number of C-130s in the Air Force. The C-130 is flown in St. Joseph at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. They were recently successful in preventing a reduction in the C-130s at St. Joseph. In Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, the 157th Air Operations Group is anticipating receiving design funding in FY 2022 to build a new facility. The proposed scope of the facility is 27,000 square feet at a cost of approximately \$21 million. Also in St. Louis, the Army National Guard is working on a new readiness center. It is scheduled to begin work in FY 2023. At the Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) in Springfield, they currently are building a readiness center which should be completed in August 2021.

By FY 2023, all Missouri National Guard helicopters will be modernized to the UH-60M model. The Missouri National Guard will receive an infantry battalion from Indiana National Guard this fall. It will bring over 700 new positions to the Missouri Army National Guard across the state.

Col. Jeffrey Paine – Fort Leonard Wood: The Ft. Leonard Wood team appreciates Governor Parson's help in celebrating the Month of the Military Child in April. Col. Paine reported that they are getting a lot of positive feedback for the new military and veteran resources portal. As vaccination numbers continue to rise, Ft. Leonard Wood made the decision to reopen the installation to families for training graduation ceremonies. As of last Friday, about 16,000 vaccinations have been given.

The new General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital construction is going well and moving on schedule. The hospital should open in FY 2023 with additional construction for a parking area and an additional clinic being completed in FY 2024. Their number one priority is the new central issue facility where basic combat trainees are issued their equipment and uniforms. Right now, they're operating out of old barracks and buildings from the 1940s. Additionally, they're building new Advanced Individual Training barracks.

Col. Matthew Calhoun – Whiteman Air Force Base: The B-2 Combined Operations Building, a \$33 million facility, is now open. Their nuclear surety inspection that happens every two years is coming up.

David Berczek – National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (St. Louis): The agency has returned to in-person work after working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency is working with Harris-Stowe State University to develop STEM teachers. In the fall, the agency and St. Louis University will be hosting a Geo-Resolution conference. Plus, the USGIF's annual GEOINT Symposium will be held in St. Louis again this fall. The construction of the N2W campus is still on track, and the agency will be able to move into the new facility in 2025.

Tama Wagner – St. Joseph Community Alliance: Missouri Western State University recently opened a military and veteran affairs office that caters to service members and transitioning service members looking to get an education. The community alliance is working with Missouri Western to keep students in Missouri after they get their degree. The alliance also used Military Community Reinvestment Grant funding in a study to identify public-private partnerships.

Joe Scallorns – Whiteman Area Leadership Council: They are currently engaged in the housing study of the area using the Military Community Reinvestment Grant funding. They plan to conduct a childcare study in the future.

Governor Michael Parson: Governor Parson stopped by to meet MMPEC members and address the meeting attendees.

Dorsey Newcomb – Sustainable Ozarks Partnership: In the budget that was recently released, funding for the new hospital was included. The installation has a new blood processing center that allows the installation to both collect and process blood.

Joe Driskill – Military Advocate: Mr. Driskill said he is back to attending meetings in person again, and his team continues to do outreach. His team continues to focus on issues affecting military families, such as spouse employment, and transitioning service members. Mr. Driskill mentioned that the Missouri Veterans Commission recently released their military and veteran web portal. He believes that is the first step in a larger project to market the state and provide information on resources to military service members, families, and veterans. Another issue his team is focusing on is standardizing college credits for military service across state higher education issues. Additionally, the quality of elementary and secondary education is a high priority.

Steven Hyjek – Baker Donelson: Mr. Hyjek introduced his new teammate, General (ret.) Robin Rand. Mr. Hyjek gave an update on what is going on in Washington, D.C. The update included Department of Defense appointments and budget news. Mr. Hyjek also provided a brief update on behalf of Kit Bond Strategies.

Julie Murphy Finn – Kit Bond Strategies: Ms. Finn provided an update on her consultancy work that is focused on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency campus in St. Louis.

OLD BUSINESS

Hart Nelson discussed the performance review that an evaluation committee completed for Mr. Driskill. He put forward the recommendation on behalf of the evaluation committee that Mr. Driskill has been fully successful in the performance of his duties.

RESOLVED, the Commission hereby approves evaluation committee's performance review of Mr. Driskill. Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Frencken. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Driskill gave a brief overview of the quality of life issues his team has been focused on. Ms. Hooven provided an updated on the military service member and family resource guide. She discussed the purpose of the project and provided a status update.

Mr. Driskill then discussed his team's progress on their strategic goals. Chairman Ehrhardt asked that Mr. Driskill and others work on creating targets for the strategic goals.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Driskill discussed FY23 budget issues and answered questions regarding the upcoming budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.