

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

Meeting Minutes
Pershing Community Center
Fort Leonard Wood, MO
July 1, 2009

Chairman Dalton Wright called the July 1, 2009 of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission to order at 10 a.m. in the Pershing Community Center at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He expressed appreciation Ms. Maggie Martin for hosting the Commission for their meeting.

Those Commission members in attendance were Chairman Dalton Wright, Vice Chair Representative Terry Witte, Senator Frank Barnitz, Senator Bill Stouffer, Representative David Day and Mr. Kent Thomas. Commission members not in attendance were Mr. Robert Welling and Mr. Jeff Bloemker. Advisory Members in attendance were General Danner, the Adjutant General, Missouri National Guard; Colonel Dennis Sandbothe, Military Executive, Missouri National Guard; Larry Kay, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission; Pat Rowe Kerr, Missouri Veterans Commission; Mrs. Maggie Martin, Fort Leonard Wood Liaison; Dr. Annette Sobel, University of Missouri; and Tammy Long and Daina Dawkins from Whiteman Air Force Base attending for Ms. Rachel Wheeler. Present from the Department of Economic Development were Mr. Don Ransom, Ex Officio member from DED, and Ms. Marcy Mealy, Boards and Commissions Coordinator.

Mr. Joe Driskill, Director of Leonard Wood Institute, gave a presentation on the Institute to the Commission. LWI was organized to enable regional businesses, universities, and non-profits to collaborate better and faster with the Army to meet identified technology needs and, as a result, build a stronger technology base and improve the economy. LWI initiates, funds, manages and collaborates in research projects benefitting the Army/DoD/Homeland Security and focuses on opportunities at MANSCEN and FLW. The desired outcomes at FLW include foremost to benefit soldiers, build a tangible presence for military-related science and technology at MANSCEN/FLW and strengthen the Army. Also, LWI desires to be a catalyst to assist DoD, the Army and FLW in bringing new/enhanced functions to Missouri. The Institute will encourage commercialization of no-classified technologies and promote technology-related economic and business development in the region and state, which includes attracting and retaining technology-focused, defense businesses and jobs and working with the UM Technology Park.

Currently LWI has signed a MOU with MANSCEN to define how the Army, LWI and its partners cooperate through research, technology exploration, and training. LWI is receiving directed funding from Congress to administer applied research projects through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. The Institute is identifying high priority technology needs at FLW/Army, building collaborative, funding and acting as a catalyst for projects, and seeking new Army-FLW investments.

The Institute considers its location very strategic due to the growing concentration of highly educated people on the leading edge of organizing, equipping and training tomorrow's Army in "Maneuver Support." There is a strong Congressional and Army support for an expanded role of FLW through greater involvement in R & D, especially related to training and leader development. There is also a greater potential for advancements at FLW that will benefit Soldiers and the regional/state economy. The Institute strongly encourages partnering for R & D project funding. LWI programs include 1) Collaborative Research & Development- 50 projects competitively awarded addressing priority Army

needs funded for approximately \$30,000,000., 2)Special Projects - targeting special, unanticipated needs of the Army and/or DoD (\$1.5 million bud) and 3)Early Stage Business Research & Development-Phase 0 which is intended to increase the number of small, Missouri-based technology businesses that submit high-quality Phase 1 SBIR/STTR proposals and improve the potential for award in areas of interest-10 projects (small businesses)totaling \$600,000.

LWI is working to ensure technology transition to defense programs and/or commercialization of LWI-funded research. The first 32 projects have been completed and reported to the Army. Already selected are several candidates for inclusion in Army Programs of record or further R & D, testing and evaluation. These candidates include HiTech, LLC, Bonnots Mill, MO; DefBar, LLC, Lebanon, MO; Alakai Consulting and Engineering, Largo, FL and Polaris Sensors, Inc., Huntsville, AL. New projects will be selected and funded by August 12, 2009. Approximately \$18,000,000 is available for projects and the research objective is similar to the FY2008 program with a greater emphasis on training, modeling and simulation plus virtual environments. This research will conclude by September 30, 2010.

The LWI presentation was followed by information from Harvey Buhr, Hitec LLC. Our environment is being bombarded with a hazardous accumulation of scrap tires and other waste materials and this same environment is found around military presence in locations such as Iraq. HiTec's technology proven systems will help to clean up these stockpiles, including OTR tires, in an eco-friendly manner. The process can recycle these materials, converting them into fuel and other valuable products. HiTec can design, build, fabricate and install the equipment and systems. They also offer 24 hour operating and maintenance support. They would like to use the waste materials found on operating bases and turn the material into a diesel type fuel. This can be accomplished with generator power. The full scale working plant is ready to build. Dr. Sobel indicated that it would be an ideal project to present to the REDI Board.

The meeting continued with discussion related to the University of Missouri Technology Park at Fort Leonard Wood. This project has the potential to provide immense benefits to the university, the region, the Army, and DoD. It may serve as a model for other Army installations to bolster mission successes, spur sustainable economic development and improve quality of life for Soldiers, their families and local communities. In 2000 and 2001 the State Legislature invested a total of \$1.6 M in the Tech Park. The University matched the funding, and the first of two 18,000 square feet buildings was built in the park. The University later added another \$1.96M from a revolving loan fund of endowment money to build the second building in 2005. Space in these two buildings has been in great demand, and the project has been profitable for both the State and the University. The buildings and the park itself are aimed at (1) technology based companies and universities that will do business with the schools and laboratories at the fort, and (2) government activities that have missions related to FLW. There are currently over 30 tenants in the park, and the buildings are full. Due to current economic conditions and the short-term tenant leases associated with defense mission support, finding additional capital to continue park expansion has been unsuccessful. Yet, there are currently over 250,000 square feet in demand for space that cannot be satisfied. The Park is in discussion with a private developer who is interested in assuming funding, development and management of the Tech Park. The discussions until recently have focused on the acquisition of the current two building in the park as well as the construction of additional space. The University has indicated that the consideration offered for the existing buildings is not acceptable. They have also indicated that they are willing to continue to own and manage the existing buildings in the park and have the developer focus on new space. The developer has now made an offer to focus only on new development and is ready to build and initial 200-250 thousand square feet of new space with 18 months of final agreement. Negotiations are underway. The Commission pledged to track the

progress and make sure that it doesn't stumble. Dr. Sobel suggested that the turnover at the University may present an opportunity to bring to the issue to light and evaluate the obstacles. UM still has the interest. Larry Sexton, LWI, stated that awareness is the main thing, we've been stuck but are encouraged by the University that it is ready to lead the way forward and facilitate the potential economic impact for the State of Missouri. Mr. Sexton also stated that the more you enhance your environment, FLW-LWI-Tech Park, the more desirable you are to the Army and we don't ever want to be considered for closure during a future BRAC.

After a few suggestions adding clarification to the minutes, Kent Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 27, 2009 meeting and the notes from the March 25, 2009 meeting. Senator Bill Stouffer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative David Day presented several bills that have been submitted to the Governor for signing. He also addressed the issue of the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children. There has been discussion with the Boards and Commissions Office to complete formation of the State Council. Mr. Thomas stated that we can fight the potential of BRAC and can work to be a solid "green" state in the eyes of the DoD. This makes a big difference that we're in a good position with Military leadership.

Updates from Advisory Members included a statement from General Danner that he had seen the tires HiTec was referring to, first hand in Iraq and that the Guard will cooperate in any way they can. General Danner stated that presently he feels that the Guard has the best and most prepared staff we've ever had, very efficient. They have turned attention to what we're doing in MO once our soldiers are home. They are working to shorten deployments, enhance family wellness programs and are working closely with the Veterans Commission. Chairman Wright pledged support from MMPEC.

Larry Kay, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission, spoke of a new task force to address veterans issues, the task force will be gathering information by conducting town hall meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 by Chairman Dalton Wright.