

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

10:00 a.m. (ET) February 11, 2025 Teleconference (Zoom)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME (Chair lacocca)

Called to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Director Bullard chaired the meeting in the absence of an appointed Chair.

Roll	call
	Chair – VACANT
Х	KDVA – Commissioner LTC (R) Whitney Allen (proxy Juan Renaud)
Х	Executive Director – BG (R) Bullard
Х	TAG KDMA – MG Lamberton
Х	CED – Secretary Noel (proxy Jon Wertzler)
Х	Lori Harper
	Kelli Pendleton
Х	Heather French Henry
Х	COL (R) Shontelle Adams

Staff/Guests: Stacey Shane/Dallas Kratzer (KCMA)

B. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes - November 19, 2024. Accepted by acclamation.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE (Steve Bullard)

Executive Director Bullard referred all present to his draft working document covering in detail current activities of the commission and said he would quickly discuss the major talking point updates. The draft working document on current activities was emailed to all participants a week prior to the meeting.

Topics he covered, focusing on updates to his previously emailed quarterly issues tracking document, included:

- Boards & Commissions is evaluating options for a new chair and commission appointments and reappointments
 - No time frame for decisions at this time
- Successful KCMA Annual Meeting was held December 6, 2024
 - Sen. Mitch McConnell is the new Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Chair
 He will continue to be a valuable resource for us in this new role
- Briefed key Kentucky-related elements of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which passed in mid-December, including:
 - \$138 million aviation maintenance facility at Fort Knox to support the U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command

- \$30M for a Child Development Center at Fort Knox
- Creates a new mission at Blue Grass Army Depot by establishing an Army-wide Centralized Security Monitoring Program there
 - Recommendation from the FY2023 Blue Grass Army Depot feasibility study
- Creation of a new interstate authority for Tricare providers to expand access to mental healthcare for our nation's servicemembers and their families
 - The DOD Tricare program is managed through Humana Military Healthcare Services in Louisville
- Authorizes a comprehensive review of U.S. military training, doctrine, and technology necessary to address the proliferation of tunnels, bunkers, weapons silos, and other subterranean military facilities used by adversaries such as Hamas, Iran, and North Korea
 - This is a direct link to the Rogers Group-owned Subterranean Mine Complex off Exit 14 on I-71, rented by the U.S. Army through Fort Campbell for the purpose of conducting mine warfare training
- \$97M tagged to accelerate development of an Improved Turbine Engine for Army helicopters by GE Aerospace, which operates a supporting facility in Madisonville
- Directs the National Security Agency to create an Artificial Intelligence Security Center within the NSA's Cybersecurity Collaboration Center, which, per Sen. McConnell, reinforces the NSA's Cybersecurity Workforce Development partnership with the University of Louisville
- Briefed Fort Knox-related events, including:
 - Lieutenant General Johnny Davis, Commanding General of U.S. Army Recruiting Command and Fort Knox, received his third star in January
 - This comes with an additional 400-plus jobs mostly permanent-party Department of Defense civilians to Fort Knox over the coming year
 - Base Realignment & Closing (BRAC) potential consideration as part of the new President administration cost-cutting effort; however, little appetite for a BRAC expected from Congress
 - Working with the Kentucky Department of Education and Lance O'Bryan at KRDA on assistance to U.S. Army Recruiting Command on recruiter outreach efforts
- Briefed Fort Campbell-related events, including:
 - Nomination of the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Major General Brett G. Sylvia, for appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General, with assignment as director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy, J-5, Joint Staff; and senior member, U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Military Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
 - Time frame has not been announced, and announcement of his successor at Fort Campbell is also pending
 - Citizens for Fort Campbell visit to Capitol Hill March 5-7, 2025
 - Fort Campbell priorities, including:
 - #1 Moving forward from FY2027 to FY2026 the \$32M appropriation for the new Air Traffic Control Tower construction (life safety issue)
 - #2 Permanent Party Barracks Construction (FY26-27-28)
 - Child Development Centers (design funding has been allocated)

- Hangars for Future Vertical Lift aircraft (Future Long Range Assault Aircraft)
- Pilot Program for Family Child Care
 - Looking for Cabinet for Health & Family Services support
- Collaboration between KRDA and the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee on supporting initiatives, including a Welcome to Kentucky package for use in recruiting soldiers by U.S. Army Human Resources Command
- Collaboration between goTenna, a DC-based communications company that develops government contracts with Department of Defense, and the Crestwood Subterranean Facility to test new capabilities for Global Positioning System (GPS) and situational awareness for troops in "denied" environments (underground)
- Opened the floor to Kentucky National Guard Adjutant General Major General Hal Lamberton to discuss current initiatives
 - Provided an overview of the National Guard Cyber Shield exercise, with the KYNG hosting their own statewide cyber exercise in the Fall of 2025, focusing on working with state universities, law enforcement, government agencies and other partners
 - Dr. Kratzer stressed the availability of the University of Louisville cyber range – the POC, Dr. Jeff Sun, has a relationship with the KYNG cyber team
 - Provided overview of Kentucky National Guard legislative activities and meetings with new Senate and House military committee chairs
 - No current southern border tasking
 - Could change over next 120 days
 - No intention of taking on a law enforcement function
 - Notes that the northern border is even more porous than the southern border, so look for prevention activity to increase there
 - 1,500 active duty soldiers now tasked to southern border
 - Federal executive orders to reduce government employees by up to two million in number may affect the National Guard
 - Initially, Title 32 "dual status" (National Guard and Civil Service) employees were originally thought to be exempt, however, over 600 in the Kentucky National Guard were offered the early resignation buy-out, with six members (less than one percent) expressing interest
 - An exemption is being sought to retain the Title 32 dual status "technicians" due to their essential roles and experience
 - Kentucky now has 12 Army and Air Guardsmen serving as General Officers in some capacity (up from 11 in November 2024), five with the state and the other seven with National Guard Bureau and other agencies
 - The Air National Guard is still working an Air Force directive to move up to 700 Air Guardsmen to Space Force, a move that historically required both federal and gubernatorial approval
- Presentation of the Association of Defense Communities Defense Community Champion Award to MG (Ret) John Tindall of KRDA on January 29 and to Craig Williams of the Richmond-area Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) on March 5

- Set up a successful slate of meetings new Southeast Region Director of the Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO), Samantha "Sam" Sliney, to review Kentucky's standing in DOD-tracked military community needs with key state legislators
 - She also met with Lance O'Bryan of KRDA, Shannon Lane of the Christian County MAC and the garrison command teams for Fort Campbell and Fort Knox
- Updated our Kentucky Defense Activity Report to include latest Department of Defense figures and the address by Gov. Beshear and the letter from Sen. McConnell to the KCMA annual meeting on Dec. 6
 - Still need to incorporate updates from military briefers (minor changes)
- Update on our annual Kentucky Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) State Council Meeting on January 30 (virtual)
 - Bottom line, Kentucky MIC3 is operating seamlessly, all requirements met
 - Briefed anticipated dues increase, for consideration in Fall 2025
- Briefed KCMA 2025 legislative agenda:
 - Support for HB 70 Dietician Occupational Licensure Compact
 - Support for HB 303 Heroes to Healers (Council on Post-Secondary Education KCTCS – Kentucky Board of Nursing)
 - Opposition to HB 141, the so-called "Defend the Guard Act" (this bill will not progress)
- KCMA 2026 priorities:

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- Collegiate Purple Star School Program (Council on Post-Secondary Education)
- DOD priority Interstate Compact on School Psychologists
- Briefed state concerns with the DOD priority initiative, Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction
 - The Christian County Chamber of Commerce will investigate whether there is any way forward on this challenging issue (few states have passed it thus far)
- Successfully hosted the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Kentucky's (MCCKY) 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps opening event in the Capitol Rotunda on January 15
 - Including the reading of the Governor's Proclamation and presentation of the proclamation to MCCKY leadership
- Worked with the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Adjutant General and the Kentucky National Guard Memorial Board to produce a press release in late January announcing the addition of the Kentucky National Memorial to the Registry of Kentucky Military Heritage Sites
- Excellent meeting (virtual) January 28 with the Kentucky Military History Preservation Alliance KMHPA) on potential ways to work together to support Kentucky military heritage sites
 - This group is also evaluating a request to the legislature to fund the recreation of Logan's Fort in Stanford, a Revolutionary War-era site of the Battle of Logan's Fort in 1777, also the site of the infamous court-martial Daniel Boone for being an Indian ally, for which he was acquitted
- Continuing to chair Kentucky Purple Star Schools initiative
 - Spring deadline for applications is February 15
 - Working on ways to streamline the reapplication process

D. OLDCC GRANT UPDATE (Dr. Dallas Kratzer)

- Dr. Kratzer updated the ExCom on the latest activities related to our Kentucky COMPETES grant with the University of Louisville through the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)
 - Finalized contractual modifications on KCMA's federal Kentucky COMPETES federal grant with the University of Louisville Research Foundation through the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation
 - Extends timeline only, with no additional state or federal funding
 - Allows the program to continue an additional three months, matching the extended grant ending period of May 31, 2025
 - The team is reaching out to the Cabinet for Economic Development on applying for a follow-on OLDCC grant to support Kentucky's Defense Industrial Base in compliance with the DOD-mandated Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program

E. NEW BUSINESS (Bullard)

- Dr. Kratzer briefed an update by the Kentucky Department of Education to the Military Transition into Teaching in Kentucky program
 - Originally signed by then-Governor Matt Bevin, the order is updated to promote the Kentucky Veterans to Educators program
 - Pathway to certification for military veterans with an honorable discharge or a member of the National Guard or Army Reserves with at least six years of eligible military service who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in an academic content area or meet PRAXIS requirements and a GPA of at least 2.75
- Dr. Kratzer said the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) is seeking to expand its Annual Veterans Employment & Training Symposium (VETS), currently held in November, to a regional level to ensure greater participation throughout the state
- Juan Renaud from KDVA told the members to expect an invitation from the University of Kentucky to their upcoming Memorial Coliseum renovation dedication

F. OPEN DISCUSSION (Bullard)

• None

G. NEXT MEETINGS

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

H. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 11:03 a.m.