

KENTUCKY
COMMISSION
ON **MILITARY AFFAIRS**



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

2:00 p.m. (ET)
 November 19, 2024
 Teleconference (Zoom)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME (Chair Iacocca)

Called to order at 2:00 p.m. Executive Director Bullard chaired the meeting in the absence of an appointed Chair. The Chair position is vacant with the resignation of BG Jim Iacocca due to retirement relocation to Oregon, effective October 31, 2024.

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

Staff/Guests: Stacey Shane/Dallas Kratzer (KCMA)
 Commissioner Harper had a conflict preventing her attendance.

B. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – September 24, 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:

- Executive Committee appointment status
 - Jim Iacocca has resigned as President/CEO of the (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA), vice former Fort Knox Garrison Commander Colonel (Retired) Lance O’Bryan
 - Iacocca has resigned as KCMA chair and ExCom member effective 31 October 2024
 - Boards & Commissions is evaluating options for a new chair and commission appointment

- Request for reappointment of Commissioners Heather French Henry and Shontelle Adams has been submitted to Boards & Commissions and is under evaluation
 - Both continue to serve unless/until officially replaced, which can be an indefinite period
- On track for December 6 KCMA Annual Meeting
 - Stacey Shane is working with military units, state leaders and other attendees to prepare the meeting and answer any related questions
- Joined the Fort Knox Garrison Command, Army Reserve leaders and the (Fort) Knox Regional Defense Alliance October 23 at Fort Knox in presenting a Kentucky Colonel to Varsha Robinson, a spouse within the U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command, who won the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) 2024-25 Military Spouse Leadership Initiative Award
 - Ms. Robinson received the award next week at the annual ADC Installation Innovation Forum in San Antonio
- Working with the Christian County Chamber of Commerce to set up the next Citizens for Fort Campbell visit to Capitol Hill in late February 2025
 - The combined group from Kentucky and Tennessee will tentatively meet with MG Silvia in early December to review his priorities for the installation
- Set up the presentation ceremony for Craig Williams' ADC Defense Community Champion Award for the next (March 5, 2025) meeting of the Richmond-area Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB)
- 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
 - Colonel J.B. Richmond has been named to succeed Major General (Retired) Steve Collins as the Director of Bluegrass Station
 - Continued work towards setting up an Operational Fires Command structure for Field Artillery, replicating the former "Corps Command" concept
 - MG Bryan Howay is continuing his work following his First Army Division East command, now serving as the Deputy Corps Commander for a new Polish Army Corps working with NATO, currently in the stand-up phase
 - Kentucky now has 11 Army and Air Guardsmen serving as General Officers in some capacity, five with the state and the other six with National Guard Bureau and other agencies
- Discussed the transition of our former Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) Southeast Region Director, Eric Sherman, to a new consulting role with the Council of State Governments, succeeded by new Southeast Region Director Samantha "Sam" Sliney
 - Setting up meetings for Sam for her early January visit to Kentucky, which will include state leaders, state legislators and the Adjutant General
 - Discussed the challenges related to the current DSLO priority of Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction, which KCMA will evaluate with the Beshear Administration

- Department of Defense released their annual Defense Spending By State Report, covering federal fiscal year 2023
 - Kentucky remains 13th in the nation in defense spending by state, rising from \$13.9B in direct spending to \$14.6B
 - Numbers remained very consistent across the board, except a rise from 32nd to 19th in grant spending with an increase from \$79.2M to \$176.6M
 - 8th in spending by state GDP (5.2%)
 - 12th in contract spending (\$11.1B)
 - 15th in personnel spending (\$3.3B)
 - 16th in personnel receiving DOD paychecks (versus retirement benefits), at 53,661
 - Updated our new Kentucky Defense Activity Report with the new data from above; plan to do a final update after the KCMA annual meeting in December
- Presented our KCMA update to the Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection Committee on November 18
 - KCMA 2025 legislative agenda:
 - Dietician Occupational Licensure Compact
 - Heroes to Healers (Council on Post-Secondary Education – KCTCS – Kentucky Board of Nursing)
 - KCMA 2026 priorities (under evaluation):
 - Collegiate Purple Star School Program (Council on Post-Secondary Education)
 - Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction
- Supporting the efforts of a coalition of the Christian County Chamber of Commerce, South Central Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and the Southwestern Kentucky Economic Development Council to promote a full military retirement income tax exemption for workforce development purposes
 - Gaining momentum with key legislators
 - LRC has determined the fiscal note to be \$6.6M at 4.0 percent state income tax; down to \$5.8M when it comes down to 3.5 percent
- Completed, in partnership with our KCMA executive committee member Heather French Henry, set up of the new 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War display in our military heritage display case in the Capitol
 - Intent is to retain the Kentucky-oriented display for at least one year, and rotate elements on an as-needed basis
 - We will continue to assess other appropriate Kentucky military/veteran themes for potential display
 - The new display focuses on the contributions of Kentuckians deployed to Vietnam for the war
- Continuing to chair Kentucky Purple Star Schools initiative
 - Approved 31 new Kentucky Purple Star School applications for the Fall of 2024, bringing our participation up to 122 Kentucky K-12 schools statewide

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)
 - Collaborative Opportunities to Modernize Practices, Engagement, Teams, and the Economy for Success
 - Very successful engagement with Kentucky's Defense Industrial Base (DIB)
 - Determine their ability to engage with DOD and fill DOD requirements
 - Assist in facilitating relationships and developing Lessons Learned for both the DIB and DOD
 - OLDCC has approved a three-month no cost extension to help the team further develop the concept

E. NEW BUSINESS (Bullard)

- Dr. Kratzer noted that if the above briefed "Heroes to Healers" initiative is successful, as anticipated, the Council on Post-Secondary Education (CPE) and KCTCS are committed, along with KCMA and Kentucky VALOR, to expanding the initiative to other career fields
 - He noted that CHI Hospital Corp. in Lexington will be the key player in developing Heroes to Healers transition programs
- He also noted that CPE remains committed to creating a Kentucky Collegiate Purple Star Program, which can't occur until the 2026 General Assembly due to fiscal requirements
- November 14 will be the Third Annual Veterans Education & Training Symposium
- Dr. Kratzer will be traveling 7-8 October to participate in George W. Bush Institute meetings on veterans employment and transition

F. OPEN DISCUSSION (Bullard)

- Dr. Kratzer discussed related workforce development initiatives, including:
 - Co-hosted, in partnership with the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) in his role as Veterans and Transitioning Servicemembers Subcommittee Chair, the 3rd Annual Veterans Employment & Training Symposium (VETS)
 - Very successful event, over 200 attendees, with Sec. Jamie Link as opening speaker
 - Linked Kentucky VALOR (Veterans Accelerated Licensing Occupational Recruitment) together with the new Department of Defense Director of DOD's Skillbridge military transition program, Dr. Taheesha Quarells, participating in a conference call November 1
 - Continuing to mentor VALOR as they grow their program, including their assumption of the Fort Campbell Career Skills Program relationship in place of the now defunct (Fort) Campbell Strong Skillbridge program
 - Presented a program on veterans' hiring at the Bluegrass Community & Technical College Winchester-Clark County Campus on November 7
 - Participated in the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) "Spotlight" seminar on Zoom, Empowering Kentucky's Veterans and Their Families: Available Resources, on November 6
 - Dr. Kratzer briefed Kentucky's actions through the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) supporting transitioning service members at the

George W. Bush Institute "The Veteran Landscape: Transforming Lives Beyond the Uniform" event on October 7-8

- Dr. Kratzer also briefed ongoing efforts with the Council on Post-Secondary Education to create a Kentucky Collegiate Purple Star Schools Program
 - Targeted to the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly due to the fiscal note requirement
 - Currently programs exist in Indiana, Florida and Ohio, with Indiana leading the way and serving as Kentucky's model
- Dr. Kratzer also noted Kentucky's opportunity to create KLEP credit programs through ModernStates.Org
 - Commissioner Henry asked to learn more so she could possibly assist him in developing related opportunities, and Dr. Kratzer said he would reach out to her

G. NEXT MEETINGS

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

H. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 2:53 p.m.