

**KENTUCKY**  
**COMMISSION**  
ON **MILITARY AFFAIRS**



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

1:30 p.m. (ET)  
 May 2, 2023  
 Teleconference (Zoom)

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** (Chair Iacocca)

Called to order at 1:30 p.m. Chair Iacocca.

Roll call	
<b>X</b>	<b>Chairman – BG (R) Iacocca</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>KDVA – Commissioner LTC (R) Whitney Allen</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Executive Director – BG (R) Bullard</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>TAG KDMA – MG Lamberton (proxy BG Brian Wertzler)</b>
	<b>CED – Secretary Noel (proxy Jon Wertzler)</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Lori Harper</b>
	<b>Kelli Pendleton</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Heather French Henry</b>
	<b>COL (R) Shontelle Adams</b>

Staff/Guests: Dwayne Edwards (KDVA), Stacey Shane (KCMA), Dr. Dallas Kratzer (KCMA)

NOTE: Shontelle Adams has submitted his resignation for personal reasons and has not yet been replaced by the Governor (new appointment remains in the evaluation process).

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2023 (BG (R) Iacocca). Motion by Commissioner Harper, second by Commissioner Henry, adopted unanimously by voice vote.

**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 were as follows, focusing on updates to the emailed document:

- Bottom line – continuing to be a very stable, positive time right now for Kentucky’s military community
- The Governor still has yet to fill one vacant KCMA ExCom position (Shontelle Adams), with two nominees under active consideration but no action to date
- Lori Harper’s term expires this summer
  - Bullard will email her the Boards & Commission application website for reappointment consideration
- 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) Commanding General J.P. McGee will have his change of command ceremony this summer, announcements pending

- Bullard is speaking at the Campbell Strong Defense Alliance meeting this Thursday and presenting the day prior to the Christian County Military Affairs Committee (MAC)
  - He is working with the MAC on a meeting with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to request they institute a military/veterans committee to support related initiatives, including a military retirement income tax exemption
- Per Chair Iacocca, Fort Knox remains unofficially poised to obtain an Air Defense Artillery Battalion (Patriot) in support of the Multi-Domain Task Force that will be assigned to Fort Bragg
  - Decision pending, with implementation by CY2025
    - Fort Knox is also working with community groups to educate them on increased noise related to range activity
    - Bullard added that KCMA continues to work with the Heart of Kentucky Realtors Association towards a Proximity to Fort Campbell and Fort Knox military installations solution
    - LTG John Kolasheski will have his V Corps Change of Command this summer, announcements pending
- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS implementation in Kentucky continues to go well, with monthly reporting to DOD
  - There are 193 currently vetted providers in Kentucky
  - Bullard was asked to work with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to provide the list to groups like the Christian County Chamber of Commerce for additional dissemination
- BG Wertzler said the Kentucky National Guard is this week hosting Swedish Armed Forces Defense Attaché Rear Admiral Jonas Wikström regarding the potential for creating a National Guard State Partnership Program relationship between Sweden and Kentucky
  - The visit is going very well, though no time certain for a decision
  - Kentucky is competing with three other states for the partnership
- Blue Grass Army Depot will host an official ceremony celebrating the end of the chemical weapons demilitarization mission on October 11, with the Governor and multiple DOD senior officials expected to be present
  - Site remediation to international treaty standards will continue through December 2026, and most current contract employees will retain their jobs through the summer of 2024
- KCMA continues to work with the Madison County, Richmond and Berea-based Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) on advocacy with Congress, the Army and Bechtel-Parsons for a new Hyper Scale Data Center, preferably on the installation but with an off-installation alternative; use of the no-longer needed chemical weapons detonation chamber for conventional weapons to alleviate noisy open-pit destruction; and jobs for displaced contractors
- Bullard was reappointed this week as Association of Defense Communities (ADC) State Advisors Co-Chair
  - Normally this is one -2-year term to allow for rotation among the states; however, both he and his had been extended for a year due to COVID
  - Bullard has been asked to extend one more term for continuity purposes, with his Florida counterpart Terry McCaffrey as his new co-chair

- Bullard did a quick review of state legislation passed this past session, and noted it is posted on the KCMA website
  - KCMA is continuing work with Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky State Police on the V Corps' driver licensing initiative
  - Chair Iacocca said he spoke recently with V Corps Command Sergeant Major Raymond Harris, who said the Army is still gathering the necessary information prior to meeting with the state agencies for assessment
  - KDVA Commissioner Allen briefed the new law allowing all veterans, regardless of home of record, to apply for internment in Kentucky Veterans Cemeteries, and addressed questions from KCMA Commissioner and former KDVA Commissioner Heather French Henry on the applicability of the legislation, stressing protection of federal funding as a key driver for the legislation
  - Bullard will join the University of Louisville for a May 10 meeting with Cabinet for Economic Development Secretary Jeff Noel on alternatives for support for the proposed Kentucky Cyberscurity Center
    - SB 33 failed in the Kentucky General Assembly due to intense regional bias against the Louisville site location

There were no follow-up questions for Brig Gen Bullard on his remarks today or more detailed written report provided in advance.

#### **D. OLDCC GRANT UPDATE** (Stacey Shane; Dr. Dallas Kratzer)

Dr. Kratzer and Shane briefed the effort to close the loop with the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to officially submit our proposed Kentucky COMPETES (Collaborative Opportunities to Modernize Practices, Engagement, Teams, and the Economy for Sustainability) grant partnership with the University of Louisville. Among the goals is to produce Comprehensive Report Outlining DIBs Modernization Practices, Engagement, Teams, and Economic impacts for Sustainability

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS** (BG (R) Iacocca)

Tom Bennett, Strategic Consultant- American Battlefield Trust, was scheduled to participate; however, his legislation to create a Kentucky battlefield preservation fund successfully passed, so there was no need for his presentation.

Dr. Kratzer discussed the status of the USO room at the Louisville Muhammed Ali International Airport, which was recently closed. Commissioner Henry said she is getting a lot of questions as to why, and asked if he could provide additional insight. Yes, Dr. Kratzer said. He has been serving in a volunteer status at the USO room, and the volunteers were told it was because there not enough traffic through the site. He said the volunteers were confused by that, as it was heavily utilized. So he inquired with the USO regional office staff and found it was simply a business decision by the USO, which prefer to put its paid resources into the new Fort Knox facility.

Dr. Kratzer said there may be an opportunity to work with Dan Mann at the airport to create an all-volunteer "military lounge" in its place. There is no lack of volunteers. They would need financial resources to put snacks/beverages in place, he stressed – a possible option for a Veterans Program Trust Fund application. He also said a military lounge could officially serve a larger veterans' population than a USO site, which is limited to Active Duty and retirees. He pledged to continue the discussion and urged commission members to reach out to Mr. Mann in support of the concept.

**F. OPEN DISCUSSION** (BG (R) Iacocca)

None.

**G. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (ET).

**H. ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.