

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



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

2:00 p.m. (ET)  
 September 24, 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 Chair Iacocca, who is traveling today.

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

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

Chair Iacocca, Commissioner Henry and Commissioner Adams all had conflicts preventing their attendance.

NOTE: Shontelle Adams has returned to the ExCom following an extended absence; and has been nominated for a second term on the committee (new appointment remains in the evaluation process).

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of Minutes – April 30, 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 were as follows, focusing on updates to his previously emailed quarterly issues tracking document:

- 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
- New Fort Knox commanders appointed over the summer period include:
  - Brigadier General Maurice O. Barnett of U.S. Army Cadet Command, vice Major General Antonio V. Munera, who retired from Army service immediately following the ceremony
  - Major General Hope Rumpy for U.S. Army Human Resources Command (a promotion from her previous role as Army Adjutant General)
  - Colonel Promotable Adam D. Smith for Army Adjutant General (a distinctly different position from a state Adjutant General)
- Fort Knox spouse Varsha Robinson of the U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command was selected for the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) 2024-25 Military Spouse Leadership Initiative Award
  - The award will be presented at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum Oct. 28-30 in Antonio, with BG Bullard and Fort Knox leadership present
  - Ms. Robinson will also be honored by the Kentucky General Assembly during the upcoming 2025 legislative session
- The Christian County Chamber of Commerce in May accepted our recommendation to join (and participate) in the Association of Defense Communities (ADC)
  - We continue to work with the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee and leadership to evaluate and sponsor local and state military community initiatives
- Colonel Samuel Morgan III succeeded Colonel Brett Ayvasian, who is moving on to a NATO assignment in Cigli, Turkey, as commanding officer of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD)
  - The incoming commanding general of Joint Munitions Command, which oversees Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), Brigadier General Ronnie Anderson, who was in Richmond to oversee the change of command ceremony, assured me that BGAD retains a very bright future due to its unique logistics and weapons storage role for all Army installations east of the Mississippi River
  - The installation is also playing an active role in supporting workforce employment initiatives for their soon-to-be-displaced chemical weapons workforce team
- Successfully nominated Craig Williams of the Richmond-area Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) for the national Association of Defense Communities Defense Community Champions Award
  - Award will be presented at the March 5, 2025 CAC/CDCAB community meeting at Eastern Kentucky University
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in August they will be moving their Louisville headquarters from the Mazzoli Federal Building to the LG&E Center tower downtown on West Main Street, replacing LG&E offices when the company completes relocation at the end of CY2025
  - This relocation affects 750 Corps of Engineers' employees, with the Corps noting it gives them the opportunity to enhance its working environment

- LG&E has already moved its headquarters to West Broadway
- Hosted on May 23 Navy Rear Admiral Craig Mattingly, Commander, U.S. Naval Service Training Command at Great Lakes Naval Station, Chicago, who is an Austin, Kentucky native
  - RADM Mattingly was visiting Navy Reserve locations/recruiters in Kentucky
- Met July 12 in Frankfort with Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) southern region representative Eric Sherman on Friday to discuss DOD state priorities and how to continue our excellent DSLO relationship following his retirement early next year
- Completed and shared on August 1 with CED the final version of our new Kentucky Defense Activity Report, very well received
  - Link –  
<https://kcma.ky.gov/Studies/Documents/KCMA%20Defense%20Activity%20Report%20August%202024.pdf>
  - Elements, including executive summary of key findings, include:
    - Military Employment in Kentucky
    - Kentucky Defense Appropriations
    - Kentucky Defense Spending
    - Kentucky Contract and Grant Spending
    - Kentucky Veterans and Retirees
    - Major Military Sites and Operations in Kentucky
    - Community Advocacy Groups
    - State Legislative Activity
  - Also includes one-page summary
- Participated in the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers' (KAM) Defense and Aerospace Council Meetings (virtual) on September 10 and July 16
- Continuing work with the Cabinet of Economic Development, KAM, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment & Training Kentucky Office, the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, Kentucky VALOR and others on military-related projects
- Met (virtually) July 9 with Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) staff to update them on our KCMA-University of Louisville Kentucky COMPETES grant program
- Continuing to serve as State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
  - Submitted Kentucky's MIC3 Annual Report on June 30
  - Kentucky is 100 percent compliant for the MIC3 annual year of July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 and had an excellent MIC3 year overall
- Continuing assessment of legislative priorities for the 2025 Kentucky General Assembly session, including:
  - Heroes to Healers; Military health care providers transitioning to Kentucky with the granting of Licensed Practical Nurse status
  - Recognition of the Dietician Licensure Compact
  - Recognition of the Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact
  - Entering Kentucky into an agreement with the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) to withhold military retiree income tax
  - Removal of all unearned income to include Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for young enlisted soldiers seeking state funded childcare subsidies

- Continued efforts to support Kentucky's Cybersecurity Center programs with Murray State University, the University of Louisville and other potential partners
- Continuing to chair Kentucky Purple Star Schools initiative
  - Received 30 new Kentucky Purple Star School applications for the Fall of 2024, which, if all are approved, will bring our participation up to 122 Kentucky K-12 schools statewide
- Working with Commissioner Heather French Henry to set up a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Display Case in the Kentucky State Capitol
- Supported University of Michigan Law School study for ADC evaluating lessons learned from studying how military installations perform many of the same services as cities and counties under a very different legal and political framework, and how those installations work with state and local governments to accomplish their objectives
- Many more items were covered in BG Bullard's quarterly ExCom KCMA Activity Report

#### **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
  - Dr. Kratzer reported that OLDCC is now realizing there is much greater potential for development within the scope of the current grant, which will almost certainly lead to an extension of the grant period and a follow-on grant opportunity
    - Discussion ensued about potential grant partners, including retaining KCMA as the grant manager, or engaging a Louisville area economic development entity (no decisions made; evaluation will be ongoing)

#### **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)**

None.

#### **G. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, September 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

#### **H. ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.