

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

10:00 a.m. (ET) November 18, 2025 Teleconference (Zoom)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Called to order at 11:00 a.m. Executive Director Bullard chaired the meeting in the absence of an appointed Chair.

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

Staff/Guests: Stacey Shane (KCMA); Juan Renaud (KDVA); BG Charlie Jones, Corey Ann Jackson (DMA)

B. OLD BUSINESS

Acceptance of Minutes - August 19, 2025.

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, as he has a speaking engagement with Floyd County Public Schools at Noon. 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:

- The Governor has appointed James Hurt to complete the term of Jim Iacocca, who resigned due to his move to Oregon, through July 2026
- The Governor has reappointed Shon Adams through July 2028
- KCMA continues to work towards hosting our next annual full commission meeting (virtual) on December 5, 2025
 - Attendance from our military components is uncertain due to recovery from the federal government shutdown; however, we expect our normal excellent turnout
- Continuing service as State Advisors Co-Chair for the national Association of Defense Communities

- Bullard hosted State Advisors Council meeting during the National Conference in Monterey, California in October
- Participated in Defense Community Infrastructure Grant program, in which we
 outlined how the current federal administration is changing their grant approach
 from supporting resiliency to "lethality" programs, and how to assess that
 approach
 - Shared feedback with the Christian County Chamber of Commerce
 Military Affairs Committee leadership, as this affects their grant approach
 (must be revised to fit the new criteria)
- Met Sep. 4 with Sarah K. Stein, the new Director, Federal and State Legislative Resource Office, Defense-State Liaison Office and Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of the DASD for Military Community and Family Policy, to discuss current Department of Defense state priorities
- Linked Fort Campbell, Fort Knox and Blue Grass Army Depot to the Naval Post Graduate School, to learn more about their "Regenerative Grazing" program and how it may be utilized at Kentucky military installations
 - Adjutant General Hal Lamberton linked KCMA in early November to Peter Byck, a native Louisvillian now Adjunct Professor at Arizona State University, and his associate, Army Major Eric Czaja, a student at the NPGS
 - The purpose of this program, endorsed by SecDef, is to increase Warfighter Readiness through training area management
 - Without proactive management, wildfire, invasive species, and land degradation will reduce usable training area, directly constraining unit readiness and lethality
 - Goals include shifting land management from heavy equipment and herbicides to adaptive grazing, with a proven 60% fuel reduction to lower wildfire suppression costs along with greater installation safety
 - All three installations are very interested and referred it to their land management directors for full evaluation
- Participated in Kentucky Adjutant General Hal Lamberton's Kentucky National Guard Senior Statesmen Event Sep. 11 at his Boone National Guard Center headquarters
- Participated in the welcome on Sep. 22 of the first Kentucky Air National Guard C-130H aircraft back to Louisville
 - Aircraft 91-1231 is being decommissioned from its current service with the Delaware Air National Guard and will become a permanent static display aircraft at the Louisville Air National Guard Base
 - Our H-model aircraft were moved upon our acquisition of the J-model and are now "legacy" aircraft
- Blue Grass Army Depot's share of the Military Construction budget (Fiscal Year 2026
 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference
 Report), following through on prior Army recommendations in their BGAD future missions'
 study, includes \$27 million in federal funding for the planning and design of a military
 container production facility
 - We continue to work on other future mission opportunities, including but not limited to a 155-mm artillery ammunition plant
- On Sep. 11, Blue Grass Army Depot's Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) technicians processed the last of 17,739 drained, Containerized Rocket Warheads containing residual amounts of VX nerve agent

- All secondary waste from components of chemical weapons has now been safely processed at the Blue Grass plant, the largest closure-related accomplishment since the start of the closure phase in 2023
- Site demolition is required by international treaty and will begin Summer 2026, a
 13-month process, with some site elements available for repurposing
- The final administrative closeout of the program remains set for December 2027
- Participated in the bi-annual Blue Grass Army Depot/Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC)/Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) meeting Sep. 3 at Eastern Kentucky University
 - This is the final in-person meeting for these two groups, and served as something as a "victory celebration" for the community in relation to the elimination of the chemical weapons program at Blue Grass Army Depot
- Linked the Fort Knox Garrison Command to the Energy & Environment Cabinet Nov. 6 to begin discussions on planning/approval considerations for a potential Department of Defense-approved 25-megawatt reactor facility to power installation energy needs
 - Concept phase at this stage
 - Follow-up meeting being scheduled for November 21
 - EEC reports this is great timing as BWXT, a reactor developer involved in project Pele with DOD, is very interested in learning more about Fort Knox and Fort Campbell opportunities as a regional partner
 - Kentucky is co-chair of an 11-state advanced nuclear first mover initiative through NASEO and is currently focused on siting and licensing
 - Fort Knox and EEC will also reach out to the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority, and, for permitting, siting and licensing, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 - The state has modeled its energy needs and estimates the need for an additional 3 GW of new advanced nuclear generation capacity online by 2050 and beginning as early as 2040
- Fort Knox received the following in the Military Construction budget (Fiscal Year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report)
 - \$50 million for upgrades to aging hangars at Godman Army Airfield
 - \$8 million for construction of a new two-way bypass to connect North Knox Street and Bullion Boulevard, allowing military equipment and large vehicles to easily travel between Fort Knox's main north-south roads
 - \$4.5 million to replace Fort Knox's aging dining facilities (six total)These support Cadet Summer Training, training support to external units with a temporary presence, and preparation of large-scale deployment of forces from Fort Knox in a time of crisis
- Met Sep. 2 at Fort Knox with the installation's new School Liaison Officer, Brianna Wolfe
 - Briefed her on the Kentucky Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) role and our related responsibilities in enforcing the compact, including points of contact in our state community
- Fort Campbell received the following in the Military Construction budget (Fiscal Year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report)
 - As strongly advocated by Citizens for Fort Campbell, \$45 million for construction of a new air traffic control tower at Campbell Army Airfield

- Aging tower (1975) desperately needs replacement to safely cover greatly expanding operations tempo and the CY2030 fielding of the Army's Future Vertical Lift aircraft (UH-60 Blackhawk successor), the MV-75
- \$11 million for modernized hangar CH-47 Chinook helicopter planning and design at Campbell Army Airfield, supporting the Citizens for Fort Campbell goal of an expanded Chinook presence
- Coordinated with Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee leadership in developing their "All-Call" to western Kentucky and northern Tennessee counties impacted by Fort Campbell to assist furloughed federal employees
 - Result was a launch of emergency resource "fairs" both November 4th and 5th in Oak Grove's Valor Hall, and again at the Montgomery County (Clarksville, Tennessee) Public Library November 7-8
 - Bullard came down and participated in the Oak Grove events
 - More than just Department of Defense workers were impacted, of course, as the state also hosts workers in other federal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Customs Service
- Met with 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Deputy Commanding General Travis
 McIntyre Nov. 4 to discuss Fort Campbell interests in detail
 - Joined by Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Director Shannon Lane
- Met Sep. 18, at the request of MG Gardner, with Army staff and community representatives from the local area, both Kentucky and Tennessee, to discuss how communities can generate support for Department of Defense-priority occupational licensing compacts
 - My guidance was based on eight years' history working compact adoption, and focused on techniques for generating the grassroots support essential to adoption by the Kentucky General Assembly
 - Kentucky is a member of nine of the 17 compacts, with at least two more pending probable adoption in the 2026 General Assembly
- Keynote speaker for the quarterly meeting of the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Nov. 5 in Hopkinsville
 - Participated in program launch/ribbon cutting of the new Military and Veterans Mental Health Program at Cumberland Hall Medical Center in Hopkinsville on Wednesday
- The Christian County Chamber of Commerce linked KCMA on Sep. 15 to Mr. David Webb, regional manager for Air Evac (a subsidiary of Global Medical Response) and a member of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS), in an effort to generate support for the DOD-priority Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Occupational Licensing Compact
 - The EMS Compact is one of the longest tenured DOD-priority compacts, dating to 2017; however, it has been steadfastly opposed behind the scenes by key KBEMS members and staff, so Kentucky has not joined
- The Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Director, Shannon Lane, called Sep. 19 to say that Fort Campbell is concerned that the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection "shut down" their federally funded project to build a new barracks for young, single Army soldiers assigned to the installation

- Shannon said KDEP evaluated the site after destruction of the old barracks and found contamination from 1960s-era pesticides, citing the "long-term exposure" risks to prevent construction of the new barracks on that site
 - He adds this barracks will be for transient personnel, with the absolute longest period of stay for any one soldier at about four years
 - There is no long-term exposure risk for tenants, he stressed, and asked if KDEP can reassess their position based on that information
 - Lodging is a critical issue for the installation, essential to their force management – this is for the E-4 and E-5 junior enlisted ranks
- KCMA referred this issue to the Energy & Environment Cabinet, which responded as follows:
 - "The Division of Waste Management approved a plan to complete the characterization of the entire property. The Cabinet continues working with Ft. Campbell to reach a solution to facilitate construction of the barracks. We know it is important and share a common goal, working within our regulatory obligations."
- At their request, met (virtual) Nov. 13 with Kentucky Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) Southeast Region Director Samantha Sliney to update them on Kentucky military legislative initiatives' progress that has occurred since the federal government shutdown took effect
 - This is mainly great progress on the DSLO priority Respiratory Care (Rep. Bratcher) and Dietician (Rep. Grossl) Interstate Occupational Licensing Compacts
 - Shared Fort Campbell and Fort Knox testimony to the legislature from this week's VMAPP (link to session video)
 - Discussed shutdown effects and how we engaged with multiple partners to lift the DOD/Office of Management and Budget ban on Fort Campbell and Fort Knox school extracurricular activities
 - Briefed her on the initiative with the Energy & Environment Cabinet to potentially support a 25-megawatt reactor facility at Fort Knox to power installation energy needs
 - Briefed her on the regenerative grazing project broached to Fort Campbell, Fort Knox and Blue Grass Army Depot
 - Sam was scheduled to testify to VMAPP on Nov. 12; however, she was unable to do so due to the federal government shutdown, so we simply shared the DSLO Priorities Memo with committee members
- Completed submission on Sep. 30 of our final Federal Financial Report for our recently completed Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant with the Department of Defense for the University of Louisville
 - Collaborative Opportunities to Modernize Practices, Engagement, Teams, and the Economy for Success (COMPETES)
 - Final product is a report to DOD on Strengthening the Defense Industrial Base of Kentucky
 - Findings Report
 - Ecosystem Sustainability Plan
 - Implementation Plan
 - Futures Analysis

- Link to report is at https://louisville.edu/education/departments/eleod/skills/kycompetes
- The university will publish the report and work with KCMA, CED, academia and other parties to publicize and pursue the Implementation Plan
- Provided KCMA letter of support to the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) for their new Kentucky Aerospace Careers Hub project, to be funded by NASA (if approved), and attended their initial working group meeting Sep. 12 (virtual) with CED, Morehead State University's Space Science Center and other supporters across the state
 - Kentucky's hub concept will include informational opportunities for students to learn about aerospace careers, tracking student interest levels pre-and-postengagement, and engagement opportunities for aerospace employers to connect with students
- A company called Silicon Ranch reached out to me in early September about coordinating an easement with Blue Grass Army Depot, and I linked them with the command leadership there
 - Silicon Ranch is working on a cyber connectivity project in Madison County
 - A private landowner is refusing to accommodate a required easement, and the installation could potentially have an alternative that would work
 - Per the command team, they're interested in supporting the project if possible; however, that decision will likely need to be made the Joint Munitions Command level in the Department of Defense hierarchy, so they're raising it for discussion
- Participated in Sep. 5 Kentucky Association of Manufacturers' Defense and Aerospace Council - Virtual Meeting with Michael Lucci, Founder and CEO of State Armor
- State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
 - Continuing to serve on national MIC3 Executive Committee
 - Continuing to serve as national MIC3 Compliance Committee Chair
 - Attended the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting Oct. 22-24
- Testified to the Joint Interim Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection (VMAPP) Committee Sep. 24
 - Provided an update on the military community in Kentucky and discussed Army priorities for legislative consideration (military spouse related occupational licensing compacts and child care support)
 - KCMA does not have any agency-initiated legislation this coming session
- Supported testimony provided by the Fort Knox Garrison Command and the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee to the Joint Interim Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection (VMAPP) Nov. 12
 - Following the meeting, shared lunch with Sen. Craig Richardson (Christian County) and Christian County Chamber Military Affairs Director Shannon Lane in the Annex cafeteria
 - Discussion centered around how the local chambers can best support Fort Campbell priorities and related relationships with Christian, Todd and Trigg County leadership
- Supported Fort Knox testimony at Interim Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology Committee Oct. 23
 - Colonel (Retired) Lance O'Bryan, President/CEO of (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA), was joined by Rep. Nancy Tate in presenting the annual economic impact (\$5.6B) and supporting \$1.3B payroll for the Fort Knox region and Kentucky

- The briefing highlighted installation assets, such as Fort Knox's supporting commands and missions, to our U.S. Army, along with highly effective community collaboration to include tourism interests
- Coordinated successfully with LRC staff to provide KRDA photos of the event
- The Council of State Governments reached out to me Sep. 2 about formally starting the process for Kentucky to join the Department of Defense-priority School Psychologists occupational licensing compact
 - I gave them the contact information for Dr. Brian Perry at the Kentucky Department of Education and asked them to work through Dr. Perry and KDE, not me
 - To date, Brian hasn't seen much, if any, interest in joining the compact
 - KCMA, of course, supports DOD-priority occupational licensing compacts when the affected state community embraces the compact proposal
- Attended Rep. Adam Moore's Veterans Caucus Press Conference Nov. 6 at the Capitol Annex, citing their three primary objectives for the 2026 session
 - Veterans' Caucus 2026 Priorities:
 - Rep. Moore's Veterans Entrepreneur Program, linked to CED
 - Sen. Matt Nunn's Veterans Training Conversion guidance for occupational licensing credentialing and college credits for military training/experience
 - Sen. Nunn's bill to protect National Guard members activated for deployment while attending college courses
 - Other bills of interest briefed during the event:
 - Sen. Matt Deneen's military ex-officio authorization for local zoning board, which allows for installation concerns to be addressed during the zoning process
 - Rep. DJ Johnson's request for continued funding of the Kentucky VALOR (Veterans Accelerated Licensing Occupational Recruitment) program, which received \$1M appropriated in the 2024 budget cycle
 - Rep. Moore graduated property tax homestead exemption for disabled veterans
 - Rep. Moore resolution urging Congress to reinstate SNAP benefits for veterans
- Senate VMAPP Chair Matt Deneen is working a bill draft to add a military installation representative as an ex officio member to planning and zoning commissions whenever they are adjacent to a military installation
 - In 10 U.S.C. sec. (c)(4), the term "military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department or, in the case of an activity in a foreign country, under the operational control of the Secretary of a military department or the Secretary of Defense, without regard to the duration of operational control
 - This includes National Guard armories/training areas and Armed Forces Reserve Centers
 - His goal is for the installation representative to advise on national security or other concerns relating to the installation
 - We advised Sen. Deneen to allow commanders to be represented by DOD civilian or local advocates, for greater flexibility, and he agreed

- Rep. Walker Thomas is working on a bill draft that requires paid veteran advocate companies to have the veteran they are working with acknowledge in writing there are other free avenues they can work through
 - Referred Rep. Thomas to KDVA and JECVO
- Continuing to chair Kentucky Purple Star Schools initiative
- Hosted (virtual) the quarterly Kentucky Purple Star Schools Advisory Committee meeting Nov. 13 in my chair role
 - Main discussion points included:
 - The success of our third annual Kentucky-hosted Convening of National Purple Star Schools in late October
 - Continued growth of Kentucky Purple Star Schools and the hosting of induction ceremonies (up to seven all Purple Star School counties, with more to come)
 - We wound up accepting 14 (of 15 applicants) new Kentucky Purple Star Schools, bringing our current number of participating K-12 schools statewide to 162
 - The availability of our newly approved Kentucky K-12 Schools Veterans Day Programs Resource Guide, now approved by the Kentucky Department of Education\
 - We will also look at producing a resource guide for celebrating April's Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day
 - Partnerships to promote the availability of military-related scholarships
 - The success of our new monthly "Liaison Loop" networking update
 - Our successful new partnership with Village Caregivers senior care facilities, especially in Eastern Kentucky
 - Support for the December 3 Purple Star Schools presentation to the Kentucky Safety and Prevention Network (KSPAN)
- Worked with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans
 Memorial Board to create an application for an America 250 Grant for the memorial under
 the "Military History" category to upgrade the permanent plaques on display at the
 memorial
- Worked with constituents in the City of Winchester in early October on obtaining the remaining \$33K needed to complete their World War II/ Korean War Memorial honoring 96 service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in both wars
 - Looking at an America 250 grant here, as well
- Working, from a Constituent Services request, with the USS Kentucky nuclear submarine based in Washington state on Kentucky memorabilia for display in the submarine on behalf of native Kentuckians assigned to the boat
 - I'm looking to donate a Kentucky flag I flew in Afghanistan, and asking state
 Veterans Service Organizations if they are interested in contributing
- Participated in the University of Louisville's Veterans Lunch on Nov. 10, sharing lunch with U of L President Dr. Gerry Bradley and Kentucky National Guard Adjutant General Hal Lamberton, discussing our interaction with the university in our roles and university support of the student veteran population
- Served as one of three keynote speakers for the 4th annual Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) Veterans Symposium Nov. 3 at KCTCS headquarters in Versailles

- Served as guest speaker Sep. 19 for the City of Paducah/McCracken County POW/MIA celebration at the McCracken County Courthouse
- Participated, at their request, in the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Kentucky's Freedom Flag Relay and Tripoli Flag Raising ceremony at Frankfort Cemetery Sep. 17
 - The event is part of their monthly celebrations of the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps
- Served as keynote speaker for multiple Veterans Day and Purple Star related events in November
- For situational awareness, WLKY reached out to Bullard in September and asked him to reprise his role as their "military expert" television commentator for the Thunder Over Louisville 2026 airshow next April
 - Theme of the 2026 show will be the 250th Anniversary of the U.S., though details have yet to be worked out

D. NEW BUSINESS (Bullard)

- None
- E. OPEN DISCUSSION (Bullard)
 - None

F. NEXT MEETINGS

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. (ET).

G. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 11:46 a.m.