

KENTUCKY
COMMISSION
ON **MILITARY AFFAIRS**



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes
 2:00 p.m. (ET)
 February 20, 2024
 Teleconference (Zoom)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME (Chair Iacocca)
 Called to order at 2:00 p.m. Chair Iacocca.

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

Staff/Guests: Stacey Shane (KCMA); John McGary (WEKU); Craig McKee (WCPO)
 NOTE: Shontelle Adams has submitted his resignation for personal reasons and has not yet been replaced by the Governor (new appointment remains in the evaluation process).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 – November 14, 2023 (BG (R) Iacocca). Motion by Commissioner Harper, second by Commissioner Bullard, 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 his previously emailed quarterly issues tracking document:

- Reappointment of Commissioner Henry in July 2024 and consideration of a successor to Chair Iacocca at the end of 2024
- Discussion of the DOD-Penn State University study on “State Implementation of Four Initiatives to Support Military-Connected Students,” evaluating each state individually
 - Kentucky fared very well in this study, Bullard noted, and initiated two associated state bills to address minor noted shortfalls
- Future mission opportunities for Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) in the wake of the completion of the chemical weapons eradication mission

- Assistance to MWM Consulting in evaluating and supporting options, through a DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation grant to the Blue Grass Area Development District
 - Primary goal is to find a way to move forward assessment and possible execution of the following new mission sets for BGAD's near-term future:
 - Hyper-Scale Data Center with Bechtel National
 - 155-mm Artillery Manufacturing
 - Critical Chemicals Manufacturing
 - Metal Shipping Container Manufacturing
 - The next related staff reduction will not occur until March 2025
 - It will affect 200 employees out of the remaining 1,300
 - The BGAD change of command has been set for June 27
 - COL Brett Ayvasian will swap out with COL Samuel Morgan III
 - Already working with COL Morgan to ensure a seamless transition
 - NOTE: Following the meeting, WEKU radio in Richmond did a story outlining this discussion in today's meeting
- Bullard reviewed the Capitol Hill visits February 6 with Citizens for Fort Campbell and discussions with the Congressional Delegation on the loss of Fort Campbell's Air Force Tactical Air Controller Party (TACP) due to Air Force restructuring
- Discussed the Fort Knox Digital Air Ground Integration Range (DAGIR) ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for May 17 and the post's action to ensure community awareness
- Discussed engaging with the Kentucky National Guard on assisting U.S. Army efforts to purchase the Crestwood Subterranean Training Facility – mines owned The Rogers Group that have been used for underground mine warfare training for many years now – which have been on hold after near success pre-COVID
- Discussed the current status of our KCMA-University of Louisville Kentucky COMPETES grant, highlighted in more detail during the grant update portion of the meeting with Dr. Dallas Kratzer, and associated work with Kentucky Association of Manufacturers President Frank Jemley and their new Defense & Aerospace Council chair Amy Womble, COO of Black Box Energy, to discuss ways to integrate the new council into Kentucky's defense community to promote manufacturing growth
- Discussed KCMA support to the Kentucky Veteran Business Alliance (KVBA), Kentucky VALOR (Kentucky Veterans Accelerated Licensing Occupational Recruitment) and Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Military Hiring Academy programs
- Outlined recent activities in KCMA's State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) role, including Bullard's reappointment as National MIC3 Compliance Committee Chair and the recent state MIC3 meeting
- Updated the executive committee on current KCMA-priority Military and Veterans state legislation, including:
 - HB 56 (Fleming), Social Work Occupational Licensure Compact
 - HB 200 (Bratcher), Omnibus Military Bill
 - HB 397 (Koch), Military/Veterans' Occupational Licensing Update
 - HB 453 (Johnson), Child Abuse Case Reporting to Military Installations
 - HB 469 (Fugate), Kentucky Purple Star Schools Enabling Legislation
 - HB 471 (Fleming), Update to Military-Connected Student Advance Enrollment
- Noted that the Transportation Cabinet officially released the new Kentucky Military Heritage Unit specialty motor vehicle license plates in January
 - 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

- 5th Special Forces Group
- 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment
- U.S. Army Recruiting Command
- U.S. Army Human Resources Command
- U.S. Army Cadet Command
- V Corps
- Worked with Transportation Cabinet in January to select the design for the following new military-related motor vehicle license plates, release date pending (approved by the General Assembly in 2022)
 - Distinguished Flying Cross
 - Air Medal
 - Aerial Achievement Medal
 - Combat Action Badge
 - Combat Infantry Badge
- Outlined KCMA's work with the Governor's Office to consider implementation of Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction in Kentucky, per DOD request
- Outlined the current status of the Kentucky Purple Star Schools program, including a legislation initiative (HB 469) to place the program under KCMA administrative supervision, along the same lines as KCMA "ownership" of the state MIC3 program
- Noted the participation of Stacey Shane and her husband and former KCMA executive director, Brigadier General (Retired) Jim Shane, on January 3 in the Arlington National Cemetery interment of our former KCMA Washington consultant, Bill Harvey, who passed away last June
- No follow-up questions were asked

D. OLDCC GRANT UPDATE (Dr. Dallas Kratzer)

KCMA's contract Grant Program Manager Dr. Kratzer briefed the status of KCMA's Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Kentucky COMPETES (Collaborative Opportunities to Modernize Practices, Engagement, Teams, and the Economy for Sustainability) grant partnership with the University of Louisville, now entering its third month of operation. Among the goals is to produce Comprehensive Report Outlining DIBs (Defense Industry Database) Modernization Practices, Engagement, Teams, and Economic impacts for Sustainability. The \$1.7M 18-month grant period of performance is from September 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025. Dr. Kratzer stressed that Dr. Jeff Sun has put together an outstanding team with continuity from KCMA's previous grant.

Dr. Kratzer shared the team's accomplishments to date, including the scheduling of a series of Town Hall meetings and interviews with industry stakeholders, including the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, Lockheed Martin, Vallent, BAE Systems, Boeing, Bechtel National, Boneal, Raytheon, Inverness Tech, Patriot Industries, Anduril, SourceAmerica, SEKRI, Carter Industries, Global Asset Technologies, Link-Belt Cranes, W&W Machinery and UPS.

E. NEW BUSINESS (BG (R) Iacocca)

Commissioner Pendleton noted Kentucky's accomplishments with the MIC3 and MCCYN-Plus programs, saying she needs to get Executive Director Bullard together with Kim Cody, a national

expert in issues related to military connected families. She stressed the challenges faced by Army families at Fort Campbell and nationwide, particularly in the area of child care availability and health care primary care managers (PCM). Bullard added that the Christian County Chamber of Commerce is building on Commissioner Pendleton's Fall 2023 initiative to identify and educate child care providers in the Christian, Todd and Trigg Counties that adjoin Fort Campbell by creating teams for that purpose. KCMA has shared a wealth of information with the Christian County Chamber's Military Affairs Committee liaison for that purpose. Commissioner Pendleton noted that the Campbell Strong Defense Alliance has yet to fill her role as president, with several candidates under evaluation.

Chair Iacocca and Commissioner Pendleton discussed the Army's decision to cancel its multibillion-dollar Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) helicopter program at the end of fiscal 2024, noting it will have an impact on future basing at Fort Campbell. Commissioner Pendleton noted associated changes in anticipated manning on post could negatively affect services. Chair Iacocca said this issue needs to be addressed at the upcoming Association of Defense Communities national conference, stressing that inconsistent and unpredictable Army budgeting and the negative impact of recruiting failures for many installations are serious issues. Iacocca also noted that the Army is rethinking its 2017 decision to push military dependent healthcare off the installation to local providers, and may reopen this option for them to use Military Treatment Facilities. Chair Iacocca noted a recent study on the PCM issue from the Army perspective, which he said he'll share with Commissioner Pendleton in their common Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army roles. Commissioner Pendleton asked, rhetorically, why would soldiers stay in the Army when they face these difficult challenges, especially if their spouse is the primary wage earner.

F. OPEN DISCUSSION (BG (R) Iacocca)

None.

G. NEXT MEETINGS

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (ET).

H. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 1:50 p.m.