

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



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

1:30 p.m. (ET)  
 August 8, 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</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>X</b>	<b>Heather French Henry</b>
	<b>COL (R) Shontelle Adams</b>

Staff/Guests: BG Brian Wertzler (KYNG), Juan Renaud (KDVA), Corey Ann Jackson (DMA), Stacey Shane (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NOTE: Shontelle Adams has submitted his resignation for personal reasons and has not yet been replaced by the Governor (new appointment remains in the evaluation process).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 – May 2, 2023 (BG (R) Iacocca). Motion by MG Lamberton, second by Commissioner Harper, 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 has two KCMA appointments to fill
  - Lori Harper’s appointment expired in July; however, she continues to serve until reappointed or replaced
    - Bullard said he has reached out to Boards & Commissions to request her reappointment; however, with the elections pending in November, he is not sure how quickly they will conduct the evaluation

- Commissioner Harper then responded to say they recently called her to ask if she'd like to be reappointed, which is a great sign, per BG Bullard
    - Commissioner Adams' position remained unfilled; no reasons provided
- Fort Campbell offers a senior leader "Fellowship" to Kentucky in which an officer would – on Army pay and benefits – be loaned for approximately four months to the Executive Branch to shadow leaders, support public affairs and social media communications, etc.
  - They just did the same in Tennessee, and the selected soldier is doing a great job in this role, especially promoting the state on social media
  - Bullard said he will wait until after the November elections to move on this effort
- Colonel Lance O'Bryan, Garrison Commander of Fort Knox, was succeeded by Colonel Christopher Ricci on July 14
  - Bullard and Iacocca have met with him (separately) to welcome him to Kentucky and educate him on the local/state community
- Significant victory for KCMA in that we appear to have successfully brokered a resolution to the U.S. Army request for a "Proximity to Military Installation" real estate disclosure requirement
  - The requirement is now being put into place by local realtors
- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS implementation in Kentucky continues to go well, with monthly reporting to DOD
- Great progress in our effort to establish a National Guard State Partnership Program relationship between Sweden and Kentucky
  - Kentucky already has two SPP partners, Ecuador and Djibouti, and can easily support a third partner
  - MG Lamberton briefed the overall effort, stressing the strong relationships built up over the past year, and noted Kentucky is well positioned to get the nod
  - No timeline; however, decision is now expected by early next year
- Bullard and Iacocca cited the promotion and assumption of command ceremony in June for Kentucky Army Guard Major General Bryan Howay to commanding general, U.S. First Army, Fort Knox as a great example of the Adjutant General's commitment to getting Kentucky National Guard personnel into senior leadership positions outside the internal Kentucky National Guard realm
  - MG Lamberton added that the Kentucky National Guard now has nine General Officers, Army and Air, in various positions locally and nationally
  - Almost double the standard allotment of five for Kentucky
- Great news in that the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing in Louisville has won their record 20th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award/Meritorious Unit Award
  - The Guard is planning a ceremony with civilian leadership (state, local and congressional), date to be determined, likely October 2023
- Blue Grass Army Depot has set October 11 as the official celebration of the completion of the Chemical Weapons Stockpile Destruction mission
  - It is tentatively on the Governor's schedule, and will include a host of DOD and international dignitaries
- KCMA is continuing work with Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky State Police on the V Corps' driver licensing initiative
  - Stalled at the moment; Bullard said he will engage with Justice Cabinet to revive the talks, and Rep. Nancy Tate remains very interested

- V Corps highlighted these efforts in their Change of Responsibility ceremony last week
- The Department of the Army was directed by Congress in the in the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to conduct a Blue Grass Army Depot Feasibility Study to evaluate disposition options for the equipment and facilities at the Blue Grass Army Depot chemical weapons destruction facility and to evaluate future missions feasible for BGAD following the completion of chemical demilitarization operations
  - This study was not completed by its March 1, 2023 due date Working with the Richmond-area community, Sen. McConnell has set up an in-person public roundtable to be conducted by the study team Still not scheduled, despite a new September 1, 2023 due date; not likely to be met
- Bullard reappointed to role of Association of Defense Communities (ADC) State Advisors Chair, along with new co-Chair MG (Ret) Rodney Anderson, chair of the NC Military Readiness
- Continuing to work with the Cabinet for Economic Development promoting the creation of a Kentucky Cybersecurity Center as a tenant with the University of Louisville, modeled on the highly successful Georgia Cybersecurity Center
  - Focus currently is on creating a broad statewide coalition of support from academia, business, associations/chambers and government
- Continuing work with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce on creating a “Military Transition Academy” to educate Kentucky employers on how to attract/hire transitioning military personnel
  - Commissioner Allen noted that the first “Academy” is now planned for early 2024
  - Bullard lauded the Christian County Chamber of Commerce’s leadership role in bringing this mission to the state chamber
- Bullard continues to serve as State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3)
  - MIC3 officially received Kentucky’s annual dues payment of \$10,355
  - Payable through the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs
  - Rate is \$1 per active duty service member K-12 students assigned to Kentucky
  - Submitted Kentucky’s MIC3 Annual Report in June
  - Kentucky is 100 percent compliant for the MIC3 annual year of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
- Provided the U.S. Army Trademark Licensing Office the final versions of the new Kentucky military heritage license plates that will be available for authorized motor vehicle owners by December 2023
  - The new Kentucky license plates meet their standards
- Conducted our annual KCMA/Kentucky National Guard Capitol Hill visit in July with all of Kentucky’s Congressional Military Legislative Assistants to update them on KYNG needs and the military community in Kentucky
  - Joined by Corey Ann Jackson of the Department of Military Affairs

- KCMA's state legislative agenda for the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly to date includes:
  - Re-introduce our HB 63 KCMA military omnibus bill which failed to get a vote on the Senate floor on the final day this year
  - Present initial Purple Star Schools enabling legislation – no fiscal cost associated, creates formal state acknowledgment of this growing state and national initiative
  - Present two new DOD military spouse priority compacts - social services (potentially Reps. Ken Fleming and Lisa Willner) and massage therapy (Rep. Walker Thomas)
    - We will only look at supporting legislation if there is a push to pass these by legislative champions, none of which have been identified to this point
    - Must be both a DOD and a Kentucky priority
  - DOD has also identified a Physician Associates Compact; however, Defense State Liaison Office says it is not yet quite ready
  - Re-introduce the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Compact (Rep Mark Hart)
  - Still some opposition from the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS), whose membership largely supports this initiative; however, several Northern Kentucky County EMS programs oppose reciprocity for fear of losing highly qualified personnel to better paying jobs across the river in Ohio
  - Testimony now scheduled for November 2023 (Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection and the Licensing & Occupations Committees)
  - Kentucky is now a member of eight of the 13 DOD military spouse occupational licensing priority compacts (note the compacts apply to all licensees; however, DOD considers military spouses disproportionately affected)
- Continuing to chair Kentucky Purple Star Schools initiative
  - We (Kentucky Purple Star Schools Advisory Board) volunteered to once again host the national Purple Star Schools conference, which will be virtual on October 26, 2023
  - Governor and First Lady Beshear just completed a video to encourage new applications
    - 42 K-12 schools now participate

#### **D. OLDCC GRANT UPDATE (Steve Bullard)**

Bullard briefed the official acceptance this week 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. Among the goals is to produce Comprehensive Report Outlining DIBs 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. Jeff Sun will once again manage the program for U of L. KCMA has submitted a non-compete request to state government to bring back Dr. Dallas Kratzer at the Grant Program Manager. Earlier today the Government Contract Review Committee approved our KCMA request for a multi-year government contract policy exemption from the current two-year budget biennial contracting restrictions.

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

MG Lamberton further discussed the ongoing effort to gain a National Guard State Partnership for Peace alliance with Sweden, noting efforts to date are paying great dividends, including letters of support from the mayors of Louisville and Lexington, the Kentucky Congressional Delegation and a former U.S. Ambassador to Sweden. He also noted that Kentucky will be augmenting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Support Function (ESF) system, which specifies 15 areas of emergency management support, with a new, Kentucky-specific ESF 17 focusing on cyber operations. Approximately 20 other states are doing something similar, he stressed. MG Lamberton added that in addition to the current nine General Officer billets occupied by Kentucky National Guard personnel, they continue to work the potential for 4-to-5 other senior leader appointments. In closing, he related some disappointing news in that the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has lost its 25-year contract with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to provide warehousing and uniform support to the military through its Kentucky Logistics Operations Center (KLOC) at Bluegrass Station in Lexington. DLA went to an open bid contract renewal, and the lowest bidder was the Industries for the Blind in South Carolina, so the contract will shift over in April 2024. This means the end of the KLOC mission, with the associated loss of 94 KLOC state employees. These KLOC employees are termed "Non-P1" because, though they are state employees, they are 100-percent federally funded. They receive state benefits and can earn state retirement; however, they do not retain the right to employment upon termination of their job. Despite that, DMA is working with the State Personnel Cabinet to transition as many of these employees as possible to regular (P1) state positions. The assumption is that many long-term employees will go ahead and retire; however, they are optimistic they can find new state roles for many of those who are interested, MG Lamberton said. In closing, MG Lamberton reminded everyone of the new and growing Kentucky-specific KYNG recruiting initiative, paying a \$500 state-paid incentive check to those who successfully refer a new recruit to the KYNG.

Commissioner Allen briefly discussed the upcoming KDVA Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) State Commanders' Conference at the Embassy Suites in Lexington August 24-25. While targeted to VSO leaders, everyone is invited, he stressed. The program is focused on getting resources to veterans. Guests include the national director for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and a senior national Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) leader.

Commissioner Henry expressed her thanks to Fort Knox and BG Iacocca for providing sandbags for her outstanding military display at the Kentucky State Fair. She invited everyone to come visit the exhibit there. She also noted she is participating in a new Civilian Ambassador Program for the U.S. Navy which seeks civilian leaders willing to promote enlistment into the Department of the Navy.

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

None.

**G. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next executive committee meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (ET).

**H. ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 1:53 p.m.