

Maryland Military Installation Council

2025 Annual Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE §11-207

Submitted by:

Maryland Department of Commerce

December 2025

Maryland Military Installation Council 2025 Annual Report

In accordance with the Economic Development Article §11-207, this document constitutes the annual report of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) for calendar year 2025. The MMIC continues to be a forum for Maryland military installations, defense community advocacy groups, defense businesses, State agencies and elected officials to dialogue on issues associated with Maryland's military installations. Recognizing that the nation is in a constantly turbulent defense spending environment, the MMIC remains focused on the Department of Defense budget impacts, mission alignment and basing decisions, potential Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activity, and relevant issues among the Maryland military installations, the associated defense communities, and supporting defense industry.

The MMIC met two times in 2025: March 10th and September 22nd. These two meetings were held in-person at the Maryland Department of Transportation headquarters at 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD. Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA), and Executive Director of the MMIC chaired the March 10th meeting. The Secretary of Commerce, Harry Coker Jr., chaired the September 22nd meeting. OMFA continues to provide direct support and coordinates all actions associated with the MMIC.

MMIC Meetings Summary:

The MMIC heard from featured speakers at each meeting, with updates on programs relevant to the health and well-being of Maryland's military installations, service members and military families, and defense communities. Installation and base commanders provided updates on activities and issues, and the military alliance presidents provided updates on their respective activities. Details of these presentations are included in the minutes of each meeting.

March 10th

- **Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC**, provided opening remarks and recognized the cabinet members in attendance.
- **MG Janeen Birckhead, Maryland Adjutant General**, presented on the Maryland National Guard structure, mission and capabilities, with a detailed description of the dualities of the federal/state chains of command, and both warfighting and domestic missions.
- **Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent of Schools and Commissioner of the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children**, provided an update on the Purple Star Schools program, with both approved and projected Purple Star School designations within Maryland.
- **Eric Davis, Executive Director, Maryland STEM Education to Employment Ecosystem (MSE3)**, described the MSE3 program, with both an academic and an industry advisory board working to align STEM education with defense industry needs.

- **Matt Hermann, Principal, The Roosevelt Group**, provided a forecast of how the policies and priorities of the new federal administration will impact Maryland's military installations and military families.
- **John Feaster, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor**, described in detail the resources available through the Maryland Department of Labor for displaced or terminated federal employees.
- **Secretary Anthony Woods, Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (MDVMF)**, provided an update on MDVMF programs and initiatives, and described the purpose and goals of the Installation Business and Talent Ecosystem initiative.

September 22nd

- **Secretary Harry Coker Jr., Maryland Department of Commerce**, welcomed attendees and provided opening comments, recognizing the economic impact of the state's military installations and the potential impact of federal downsizing initiatives.
- **COL Francis Pera, Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Baltimore District**, described the ACOE Civil Works program in Maryland and the surrounding region, with the Baltimore District overseeing 660,000 square miles and a portfolio of \$335M in civil works projects.
- **Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)**, provided a brief overview of MDP and priority programs, including the State Data and Analysis Center, the Maryland Historic Trust, and the Land-use Policy Team.
- **Christopher Webster, JD, Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies Director, and Lisa Montel, Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), University of Maryland**, provided an overview of the Resilient Maryland Defense Community project supported by a grant from the DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The intent is to improve collaboration among defense installations and their host communities.
- **Maj Gen April Vogel, USAF (Ret), VP Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**, described MOAA's goals to advance solutions for military and veteran communities, to include improvements to unaccompanied housing, military spouse hiring opportunities, and "ending the wait" for military and families in transition.

At both 2025 meetings:

- The military installation garrison and station commanders informed the MMIC of local, state and federal issues impacting their installations and associated defense communities, and reviewed significant upcoming events at their installations, as detailed in the attached minutes from each meeting.

- Representatives from the seven military alliances offered overviews of their alliance activities and engagement with their respective installations.
- Congressional staff in attendance, representing the federal Maryland delegation, participated in discussion and provided comments on relevant federal issues.
- State agency directors in attendance, or their representatives, provided comments and perspective on many of the programs and issues discussed.

Findings and Recommendations:

As in previous years, it remains clear that Maryland must be vigilant in the face of defense budget instability, mission realignments and/or relocation out of Maryland, and potential BRAC activity. Engagement from all Maryland stakeholders is necessary to avoid losing military mission, which equates to jobs, payroll, contracts, and significant state and regional economic impacts. Likewise, the state must position itself to take advantage of opportunities, whenever they present themselves, to preserve and increase the federal defense footprint in Maryland.

- Although all Maryland installations have returned to normal post-COVID operations, there is a larger segment of workforce working remotely than pre-COVID.
- The current federal administration's federal downsizing initiatives have and will continue to impact the federal workforce in Maryland, including DoD civilian employees. Many organizations have lost force structure, and many employees have opted for buy-out offers. We can expect to see a reduction in federal payroll and the associated economic impact.
- At the time of the September meeting, there was potential for a federal government shutdown. That the shutdown did occur, and for an extended period, caused further turmoil for the federal civilian workforce and disruption to Maryland defense companies.
- Lack of childcare capacity for military families has eased somewhat but remains a concern at most of the Maryland installations and surrounding communities.
- In addition to technical and cyber skills, commanders report difficulty in hiring childcare workers, mechanics and other skilled labor. Workforce shortages persist at all Maryland installations.
- Continued engagement with our federal partners, and financial support of our seven military alliances are essential to maintaining the estimated \$60+ billion statewide economic impact of our Maryland military installations.

The minutes of the March 10th and September 22nd MMIC meetings follow.

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL
Monday, March 10, 2024; 0830-1145
Meeting Minutes

The first MMIC meeting of 2024 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, briefings on the Purple Star Schools program and Military Family Services, a brief overview of state legislative initiatives relative to military families, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, from the military alliance presidents, and from state agency members of the MMIC. Total attendance was 62.

Opening Comments

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC, and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and recognized the MMIC cabinet members in attendance.

Purple Star Schools: Maryland Overview

Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Student Support Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy, Maryland Department of Education, and Commissioner, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

- Purple Star schools consider the unique situations and needs of the children of military families, to enable and ease the smooth transition of those students.
- Ms. Gable described the criteria to become a Purple Star school and listed the eight schools in the state with the Purple Star designation:
 - Bellows Springs Elementary (Howard County), Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary (St. Mary's County), Kent Island High (Queen Anne's County), MacArthur Middle (Anne Arundel County), Meade High (Anne Arundel), Mt. Harmony Elementary (Calvert), Queen Anne's County High (Queen Anne's County), and West Meade Early Education Center (Anne Arundel County).
 - Breakdown by county: 3 in Anne Arundel, 2 in Queen Anne's, 1 in Howard, 1 in St. Mary's, and 1 in Calvert.
- Each school must apply, but there is no limit or cap on the number of Purple Star schools in the state.
- The next round of applications will be received late summer or early fall.
- For questions or further discussion: mary.gable@maryland.gov

An overview of the Q&A following the presentation can be found below:

Question: (COL Wilson, CO South Potomac) How does this work for DoDea schools?

Answer: Assistance would not vary.

Question: If a parent deploys, the child can take off and not be counted tardy – does that count for federal schools?

Answer: Yes, but MD Dept of Education does not have oversight over those schools.

Parents/students can take time off after deployment but there needs to be a conversation about the reasonableness of that time off and any tests that may be missed.

Question: (COL Marsh, CO Fort Detrick) Fort Detrick has a great relationship with FCPS; what are the talking points with the county executive/superintendent to pursue Purple Star status? Answer: Mary will send information to Lisa about the program to distribute to commanders. Reach out to the schools, however there is an application and it requires the superintendent's approval.

BWI Airline Service for the Military

Jordan Kayloe, Director of Air Service Development

- Mr. Kayloe was unavailable and will be rescheduled for the 10 June MMIC meeting.

Understanding the Military Family: Panel Discussion

Sonja Flannigan, 1st Vice President, APG Community Spouses Club

Miranda Wright, APG Community Spouses Club

Gari-Ann Kia, NAS Patuxent River Officers' Spouses Club

- The panelists were introduced and profiled. Each described similar experiences:
 - Challenge of frequent moves, specifically experiencing moving to Maryland
 - Difficulties transitioning in and out of communities and the role of spouses clubs and social media to reach military spouses and provide services and support
 - Issues with school transitions, particularly transferring credits
 - Spouse employment roadblocks

The panel received lots of questions from the audience and was well received. Some of the questions from the audience and the outcomes from that discussion are summarized below.

- What used to be "Officers Wives Clubs" should now be "Military Spouses Club" or "Community Spouses Club" due to the changing demographics of the military family and to be inclusive of all genders and family dynamics, including unmarried partners.
- Some support programs for transitioning service members and military families that were highlighted at Maryland installations and defense communities include:
 - JBA Sponsorship Program offered as a model for other services/bases for transitioning service members and families. Incoming airmen are paired with a sponsor within their unit of a similar grade/rank and with similar family dynamics (e.g. single, married, with kids, etc.) to help guide them with the transition.
 - JBA also created an app called JBA Connect that has all of the information for the base on that app so any new service members or interested parties can download the app and has info on who to connect to depending on the question/issue.
 - A non-federal non profit org, Community Salutes, hosts a "D-1 Signing Day" of HS enlistees in Howard County.
- Importance of service opportunities for K-12 education:
 - (Mary Gable) Maryland is one of the only states that requires 75 hours of service for graduation. Some of it is embedded in curriculum like civics classes and some are outside of the classroom. Could still do a better job.
 - (Secretary of Labor Portia Wu) Maryland under the Blueprint for Schools is focused on getting students college and career ready and has funded career counselors for the first time through local workforce boards that are advising kids

on their options, including military and government service. These positions have recently been hired within the last three months.

- (Secretary of Labor Portia Wu) Maryland Governor Wes Moore has created a Maryland Corps and Service Option program which provides HS grads with the opportunity to take a “service year” creating new pathways to meet community needs, enhance workforce development, and promote preparedness for both higher and vocational education. The program within the newly created Department of Service and Civic Innovation will look to make military families aware of and engaged in this initiative.
- School rankings/scoring and homeschooling as an option for military families:
 - Scores online are not necessarily indicative of a school's performance and do not tell the whole story. Need to research school's programs and parenting plays an important role.
 - (Lisa Terry, Manager of the Howard County Office for Veterans and Military Families) A great rating does not define a school. Encourages military families to get into the schools, volunteer and get to know their programs. Howard County is working on recognizing students who have gotten into a service academy at graduation or will serve in the military after graduation; not sure if MSDE can support. Encourages participation in Veterans Day or Memorial Day celebration as well to get exposure for kids on what military service can mean; not just combat.
 - (COL Sapp, Fort Meade CO) Homeschooling is an option to military families which provides stability, but he has heard from homeschooled families at Fort Meade that every state and county has different requirements for homeschooled students.
 - (Mary Gable) Homeschooling families have to register the child through a homeschool program. Whether they can participate in sports or extracurriculars depend on the county/state jurisdiction as regulations can vary. Not sure about current regulations, but previously not allowed.
- Spousal employment remains a concern for military families
 - Areas that have schools of higher desirability have higher cost of living and hidden expenses that often require dual income. Also challenging to find affordable childcare; inaccessible to many military families.
 - One panelist indicated that she was unable to find employment on base due to her green card status and by the time she found employment off-base and settled into position, it was time to change station again. Can lead to employers discriminating against military spouses.
 - (Lisa) Proposed legislation in the 2024 legislative session to address discrimination against military families and service members.
- Difficulties with childcare and the impact on military families
 - Spousal clubs have connections in the community for childcare. Churches provide childcare but only for limited hours that are not sustainable for employment. Before and after school programs have a cost involved.
 - Childcare Aware Program takes 6 months to apply and get approval and reimbursement/subsidy is not guaranteed; if you live outside of a radius or the base Child Development Center(s) is full, the program subsidizes childcare costs

- at private centers. The six-month wait discourages families to apply. Making that process easier would help.
- Most community child care centers open at 6:30 am. Most military families need them open at 5:00 am in order to arrive for their PT on time.
- Two major issues impacting change of station and retirement decisions:
 - School choice: difficult to do in Maryland but can be coordinated at local level between counties and Maryland continues to look at other state's best practices.
 - State taxation of military retirement pay: Last year in the legislative session, Governor Moore supported a gradual total exemption of military retirement pay. There is a need to educate legislators on the value of the exemption from a workforce attraction perspective and less on the fiscal note impact. Two different bills currently for military retirement pay exemption are being considered by the state legislature during this year's session.
- To the commanders: "Military families will love you forever if you reach out and help them transition."

Networking Break 10:00-10:15

Maryland Legislative Updates

State Delegate Carl W. Jackson, District 8

- Delegate Jackson had conflicting legislative duties and regrets he was unable to attend.
- Ms. Swoboda highlighted several military and family related initiatives in the current legislative session. Specifically, she highlighted:
 - Bill that supports the state giving hiring preferences for active duty members and spouses
 - Bill to create a commission for veterans and military families
 - Healthcare Occupations Temporary Licensure bill
 - Cosmetology Licensure Compact bill
 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact bill
 - Anti-discrimination bill for military status
 - Several bills on income tax deduction for military families
 - Modification to MMIC membership to add state departments of Labor, Education, and a military spouse as statutory members.
 - Administration bills including the Time to Serve Act and the Families Serve Act
- A full list of military-related bills will be provided to attendees as a follow-up.

Blue Star Families: Annual Military Families Survey

Yolanda Rayford, Director, Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter, Blue Star Families

- Ms. Rayford had to cancel due to illness. She will brief on the newly released 2024 survey at the 10 June MMIC.
- The Blue Star Military Family Survey results are scheduled for release tomorrow, 12 March.

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Christopher Schwarz, Commanding Officer

- Busy season upcoming with graduation; expects over 1M visitors to the area over next two months, bolstering local economy
- The Navy Community College program at Quantico is moving to the Naval Academy. College will be 100% virtual, however 100 employees are relocating to NSA Annapolis, so there will be some local economic growth in the region as a result.
- The Bancroft Hall (midshipman dorm) renovations continue with some construction this year and a study on renovations is planned for next year.
- NSA Annapolis has two CCDs and has 30 military families on the waitlist who have priority, plus civilians who are ranked lower priority. Looking into a third on-base CCD or at subsidizing childcare for military families to use off-base CCDs.
- There are discussions about potential use of “The Naval Academy Dairy Farm” site for solar energy production. An RFI is out to the renewable industry to see what is possible with solar/other renewable energy projects on that site.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Alan Christian, Commanding Officer

- Continuing with construction through 2028 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and encourages people to check their website to see what gates are open for visitors.
- Two on-base CCDs with waitlists and working on prioritizing that list. No on-base housing so it's challenging for commuters to drop off children off base with traffic issues in the area.
- Parking is a perennial problem, with no apparent quick fixes. They average over 10,000 individuals each day commuting to the 243-acre campus. Parking garages are all full; one is still down for construction and will be up and running in August.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Matt Tardy, Commanding Officer

- NSWC Carderock has 2800 Navy civilians engaged in research and development.
- Activities to build future workforce include STEM programs with high school students, scholarships and internships. NSWC Carderock is bringing on about 120 students this summer and encourages the community to support.

Naval Support Facility Indian Head – CAPT David Wilson, Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac

- NSF Indian Head has begun a 10 year \$2.7B Energetics Comprehensive Modernization Plan (ECMP) which will also result in 600 additional employees.
- The Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) will become a Joint organization, which will increase the total uniformed population of on-base.
- As an action to reduce the “gate running” at the main gate - NSF Indian Head has more occurrences than any other navy base - a three-phased response is in place. Phase 1

completed with additional signage in town that the base entrance is upcoming. Phase 2 has started with the installation diverting after hour and weekend traffic to a secondary entrance away from the main entrance. Third phase will require a study and plan for traffic calming solutions (not yet begun) to include improvements to Route 210, a state managed highway.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– CAPT Douglas Burfield, Commanding Officer

- NAS Pax hosted a visit with Governor Moore last month; highlighted that the CCDs at Pax River are 100% staffed and highlighted Fleet and Families support center, also fully staffed.
- The installation is supporting several initiatives to support military children and families. School liaison officer Dawn Simpson has been especially effective. Sees Purple Star Schools Program as a growth program for the state.
- The base continues to have difficulty in hiring, particularly with security guards.

Joint Base Andrews – Col. Todd Randolph, Installation and 316th Wing Commander

- JBA hosted a Change of Responsibility for the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, the top enlisted member in the service.
- The annual “State of the Base” briefing is scheduled for 10 April with local and community leaders.
- JBA hosted its 6th annual STEAM Summit for middle/high school students for aviation technology which included presentations from various teams/commands on the base. Participating students competed in competitions. Event is organized by Krist Zimmerman and the base welcomes other installations to participate in next year's events.
- This year, JBA is hosting several aircraft as a result of the national election and as a result of the national NATO summit in DC. For the NATO Summit, all NATO countries are flying in and will host a flight crew starting on July 4th during holiday.
- Col. Randolph will rotate this summer to a fellowship in New York City for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Phil Mundweil, Garrison Commander

- The Senior Mission Commander, MG Robert Edmondson will retire this summer. The incoming SMC is BG James Turnetti.
- APG Immersion Day on 21 March; base will host educators from Harford and Cecil County to familiarize themselves with technology from APG. COL Mundweil will reach out to Mary Gable about this for coordination.
- Great support from local communities:
 - The Harford County emergency operations center backs up APG emergency ops. A full scale exercise is planned across the installation on 24 April and the base is receiving assistance from Harford County on this exercise. Base is also engaged in a county-hosted full-scale exercise on 16 April at Peach Blossom Nuclear Power Plant.
 - There is notable support from the Harford County Veterans Commission.

- Cecil County recognizes contributions from the base, including that they are the largest employer for the county and have also started a Veterans Commission to support the veterans/retiree community within the county.

Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander

- Both COL Marsh and Senior Mission Commander BG Edward Bailey will be rotating this summer.
- The installation is averaging 280 days to fill a position through USA Jobs. Unacceptable!
- MDE obligation \$32M to decommission the old steam plant is fully approved; win for the community.
- Transportation issues are the number one concern for Fort Detrick, particularly US-15.
 - Lyn Farrow (MDOT, Director of External Affairs): planning is ongoing despite state budget cuts; commission working to develop new funding streams for transportation projects.
- COL Marsh recognized the role of OMFA in supporting the installations and the symbiotic relationship between the base and the community. Recognized Jen Staiger and Fort Detrick Alliance's work to support the base.

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- COL Sapp will rotate this summer, with a change of command date set for 6 August. CSM Welch has a change of responsibility date set for 26 April.
- Base is proud that Anne Arundel County has three Purple Star Schools of the eight total schools and that all three are within the Meade cluster.
- The new dual-hatted NSA/CYBERCOM commander is GEN Timothy Hough, who is very supportive of the Meade schools cluster. GEN Hough wants the Meade Cluster to be a model for the community and has a goal that service members will choose to retire to the area rather than move again. Transition is a disruption to families and there is a need to explore supporting stability for families.
- Meade High School is under renovation, supported with a \$100M DoD grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony planned with community stakeholders when completed. This Fall will be the first year the renovated school can host students.
- The Garrison is coordinating with Anne Arundel County to pursue a grant from OLDCC to support a Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) for the base, identifying and addressing threats within the community that could negatively impact the base's resilience. Looking at transportation issues like the MD-198 bridge that keeps getting washed out in addition to other concerns.
- Discussed the importance of IGSAs to save money for the federal government and invest in the community.
- Pre-Covid Color Guard event “Massing of the Colors” is returning this year, scheduled 19 May.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermier, Commanding Officer

- The Coast Guard Yard (CGY) continues to provide worldwide support.
- CGY is finally almost caught up on filling vacant civilian workforce positions, however, there is now a notable experience gap which requires targeted training.
- CGY is looking at ships to be decommissioned and accelerating that plan for refurbishing for foreign military sales.
- Maryland hosted the Antarctic and Arctic Symposium and the keynote spoke to threats in those areas and how the Coast Guard plays a role in maintaining ice breakers.
- NSA Annapolis and Fort Meade CCDs support their members.

Maryland National Guard – Antonio Campbell, representing The Adjutant General, Maryland Military Department

- The Adjutant General is dual-hatted as a Department Secretary and as the Commander of the Maryland National Guard.
- The Maryland Military Department has been working to retain the MDNG air mission at Martin State Airport in Middle River. However, the Air Force just announced decommissioning of the A10 airframe, and the transition to a cyber related mission. This will impact the local workforce and potentially the regional economy.
- Aviation Day at Fort McHenry is scheduled for 23 March.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented**Military Alliance President Remarks****Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President**

- NSF Indian Head hosted the CNO Admiral Franchetti and Senator Cardin in February and is scheduled to host a visit from Congressman Hoyer on 19 March.
- The Indian Head “State of the Station” address was presented on 29 February.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Tom Garrison, President

- The installation hosted a very successful visit with Governor Moore last week.
- Mr. Garrison mentioned the upcoming ADC conference and encouraged other installation communities to attend.

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Tim O’Ferrall, Executive Director

- Fort Meade and the surrounding area was recognized by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) as one of five 2023 Great American Defense Communities.
- Mr. O’Ferrall will host the Army Town Hall opening session of the ADC Policy Forum conference on 8 April.
- “Friends of Meade” is a new advocacy group in support of the Ft. Meade school cluster, led by Chad Jones, the garrison Public Affairs Officer.
- The FMA annual acquisition outlook breakfast conference with NSA, CYBERCOM and DISA acquisition leaders is scheduled for 3 April.

- The FMA-sponsored Project Scope has reached 700 students this year to emphasize the importance of personal conduct in obtaining a security clearance as they enter their work years.
- The Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center has been open and providing services for just over a year, and is exceeding expectations.
- An FMA-sponsored Career Transition Pilot Program for service members and spouses is scheduled for 25 April at Maryland Live in Arundel Mills. Counseling and resume prep from at least 20 employers will be available.

Army Alliance (AA) – Mike Ray, President

- The Alliance annual luncheon meeting was held last week; the annual dinner meeting is scheduled 3 June.
- Mary Jane Jernigan, Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army and a Harford County resident will be recognized as one of several Association of Defense Community Champions.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Jennifer Staiger, President

- Fort Detrick continues to be the largest employer in Frederick County.
- Most of the tenant organizations are engaged in research and development and related missions, which require a very technical workforce.
- The Alliance has been working with Fort Detrick and workforce services to support the MRDC and other tenants to identify resources for attracting and hiring workers, to include apprenticeship programs.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Not represented

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

State Agency Closing Remarks

Veterans Affairs – Ross Cohen, Deputy Secretary

- Commented on three pending legislative initiatives:
 - The “Families Serve Act” that will provide military spouses 10 points in the Maryland state hiring process.
 - The “Time to Serve Act” would provide additional leave to Reserve and National Guard service members preparing for and returning from deployments.
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs to be renamed as the Department of Veterans Affairs and Military Families, with the addition of a Deputy Secretary for Military Families.

Department of Labor – Ms. Portia Wu, Secretary of Labor

- Very glad to have the Department of Labor become an official member of the MMIC.

- We currently have active workforce programs that support career counseling for veterans and military spouses.

Department of Transportation – Ms. Lyn Farrow, Director of External Affairs

- Governor Moore created a Maryland Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs Commission that is charged with exploring alternative funding sources to meet the state's growing transportation needs including options for public-private partnerships.

Department of Environment – Scott Bowman, Chief of Staff

- The EPA is about to release standards for PFAS, which could require assessment and possibly remediation on military installations.

Announcement: Kristin Byerly, MMIC member and Director of Veterans Initiatives for the University of Maryland Global Campus, noted the MilVet Net event scheduled at the College Park Marriott and Conference Center on April 23 from 4-7pm. This no-charge networking event is open to everyone across the state of MD with a military connection looking to network with veteran service organizations, employers, and entrepreneurial resources.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:45 am.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 3.10.24
MMIC Slides 3.10.24
MMIC Attendee List 3.10.24

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL
Monday, 22 September 2025; 0830-1145
Meeting Minutes

The second MMIC meeting of 2025 was conducted in-person at the Maryland Department of Transportation headquarters at 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD. The session included introductory remarks from the MMIC Executive Director and Chairman. Briefings included an update on the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, a Department of Planning overview, the Resilient Maryland Defense Communities project, a description of the upcoming MOAA “Total Force Plus” conference, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, and from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 79.

Opening Comments

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC, and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs called the meeting to order at 8:40 am, welcomed attendees, provided opening remarks acknowledging the significant birthdays for our armed services as well as the U.S. Constitution, and recognized the MMIC cabinet members and special guests in attendance.

Secretary Harry Coker, Maryland Department of Commerce, provided a personal welcome, recognized the economic impact of Maryland’s military installations, and noted a decline of 3,200 Maryland federal jobs in August, and 15,100 year-to-date. A potential third round of federal civil service reductions could be an additional challenge, but workload will not diminish; instead, the DoD must lean on the industrial base and small businesses. In order to assist Maryland’s contractors in meeting DoD requirements, the Secretary encouraged the use of Commerce resources such as the “Build Our Future” grant program, the Maryland Defense Network, and the various Department of Commerce small business programs. Secretary Coker also asked members to share feedback on areas for improvement, not just successes.

MILCON and Civil Works Activity Update

COL Francis Pera, Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District described the Civil Works program in Maryland and the surrounding region, with the District overseeing 660,000 square miles with a FY24 portfolio of \$335M in civil works,

including navigation, dredging, coastal protection, water resource planning, engineering and emergency operations.

- Maintenance of the Baltimore Harbor requires 3M cubic yards of dredged material to be removed annually. A new \$35M dredging contract was recently awarded to begin in November. The Sea Girt terminal will be deepened from 47' to 50'. Dredge materials are used to create environmental infrastructure at Poplar Island, and in the future at James and Barren Islands, creating a win-win scenario. These projects will balance the economy, community tourism and habitat restoration.
- Studies and permitting for reconstruction of the Key Bridge are underway. Acknowledged the estimated costs for the rebuild have increased.
- A renovation of buildings 2 and 5 at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) at Beltsville is underway. Other buildings are on hold until BARC finalizes the transition plan led by the Administration for an agency footprint reduction.
- The proposed \$1.2B construction for the relocation of the DC-based U.S. Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Beltsville is on hold pending consideration for renovation of current DC facility.
- The Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard, dating from 1936, has received \$500 million for renovation which includes a deeper channel, repaired piers, plus upgraded substations and aged production buildings.
- USACE Baltimore District Emergency Operations supported Allegheny County flood debris removal, recovery from the mid-air crash at Reagan National Airport, and wildfires in California, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Partnerships for Compatible, Sustainable and Resilient Defense Communities

Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), provided a brief overview of MDP and priority programs.

- State Data and Analysis Center (census, economic and geospatial data)
- Maryland Historic Trust (cultural, archaeological, Section 106 reviews)
- Land-use policy team (smart growth, resiliency planning)

Secretary Flora listed eight land-use principles intended to produce sustainable, healthy and thriving Maryland defense communities: Land, Transportation, Economy, Housing, Equity, Ecology, Resilience and Place. She also stressed the need for density, zoning reform, housing affordability and resiliency integration.

Resilient Maryland Defense Communities Project

Christopher Webster, JD, Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies Director, and Lisa Mantel, both from the Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), University of Maryland provided an overview of the Resilient Maryland Defense Community project supported by a grant from the DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). The intent is to improve collaboration among defense installations and their host communities with a four-step process:

- Build the collaboration process
- Conduct a gap analysis

- Provide recommendations
- Forge civil/military partnerships to address issues

The Project Advisory Committee has its initial meeting on 25 Sep. Details provided in attached charts.

Total Force Plus Conference

Maj Gen April Vogel, USAF (Ret), VP Government Relations, Military Officers

Association of America (MOAA) described MOAA's intent to advance solutions for the military and veteran communities. MOAA national membership is 350,000. An array of legislative priorities include:

- Improvements to unaccompanied housing
- Military spouse hiring issues
- “Ending the Wait” for military and families in transition

Total Force Plus is a MOAA-sponsored “People First” conference that will be conducted 28-29 October at National Harbor. All active duty military and their families attend for free.

Networking Break 10:10-10:30

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – CAPT LaDonna Simpson, Commanding Officer

- Currently implementing recommendations from the MIRR conducted in 2023 through their Installation Comprehensive Plan, which will have resiliency impact through 2065.
- They onboarded 1000 new midshipmen this class, with 10,000 family and friends visiting the installation. This year the installation has seen 1 million visitors.

Naval Support Activity, Washington (Carderock, Olney and Suitland sites) – CAPT Ryan Gaul

- NSA Washington represents seven (7) installations across the DMV, including 3 in Maryland: Suitland, Carderock, and Olney. Forty percent of the NSA Washington workforce are Maryland residents.
- Specifics at the sites are:
 - Suitland drinking water is being addressed through projects. The largest site tenant is the National Maritime Intelligence Center (NMIC). A MILCON is beginning that will take significant portions of the parking. They are working with NMIC to address this during construction.
 - Carderock site is experiencing flooding at the truck access gate and they are looking to address this. Large commercial trucks cannot use the main gate entrance off Clara Barton Pkwy as that is a national highway and these trucks are not allowed on it. Also, Capt Gaul stated that he might be asking for Maryland advocacy to stabilize the power on the base. During any storm the base loses power regularly. The cause is trees outside the fenceline. OMFA will follow up with CAPT Gaul to discuss actions needed.
 - Olney is in process of creating their Area Development Plan in response to the additional Navy DoD battery testing mission there with the new MILCONs in process.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Christopher Matassa, Commanding Officer

- Captain Matassa emphasized CAPT Gaul statements regarding Carderock location, as well as added there are now 2500 people working at his site in Montgomery County.

Naval Support Activity South Potomac (Indian Head) – CAPT John Nadder, Commanding Officer

- The Navy is investing \$2.7B over the next 15 years under the Energetics Comprehensive Modernization Plan (ECMP) for the NSWC Indian Head Division tenant manufacturing facility. This facility is the only DoD operated arsenal for rockets, propellants, warheads, and other energetic items and is critical to meeting the current munition and weapon industry shortfalls. This facility is over 130 years old in pieces but continuously operated. The facility has several public private partnerships in place to support infrastructure shortfalls.
- The Captain spoke of the success of the SMECO contract which has now taken over the running of the base's extensive power operations for NSA South Potomac.
- Lastly, he mentioned the recent Table Top exercise conducted under the contract led by the Tri County Council with funds from OLDCC (DoD) to look at the increased gate and road demands from the increased traffic and manufacturing trucks at the base. The main gate to the base is at the end of Route 210 in the incorporated town of Indian Head. This tabletop exercise illuminated gaps in both transit routes, as well as connections between key community members and emergency entities. The study will capture actions required to address both.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– CAPT Zematis, Commanding Officer

- Base recently completed a major electrical project also with SMECO to address energy vulnerabilities and enhance the base's resilience.
- Currently updating an Air Installation Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study last completed in 2009.
- Finalizing the protection of 20,000 acres through Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) projects.
- Plans are underway for the Navy's 250th birthday in October 2025. More to come.
- Planning an air show with the Blue Angels 20-21 June 2026 – the first in eight years at NAS Pax.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Emily Tharp, Commanding Officer

- CAPT Tharp assumed command in June. She is a naval engineer with a background in cutters and acquisition.
- Commended the Maryland Defense Forum in June 2025 that she attended.
- The \$500M modernization campaign, described earlier by COL Pera as a partner with the Yard, was funded in the Big Beautiful Bill. In fact, the USCG had an injection of \$24B which was a huge increase in the service's budget. The \$500M is a huge step forward for the changes needed to bring the Major Cutter Ship Capability back to the Yard. They will begin the dredging, high-capacity lifts, as well as dry dock efforts per their plan. This was

a huge step forward but additional funds are still needed to complete the project in time to perform the major cutter work needed. The total is estimated at \$1.2B to complete the Modern Ship Repair Facility.

- October 22nd Industry Day will happen for this work to be performed.
- With the growth of the manufacturing and ship repair at the Yard, workforce initiatives must also increase. This is and remains a focus of the Captain's.
- Project to grow another 245 positions by 2031. The Yard's workforce is currently at 700. They continue to look to partnerships, good internship programs, and other ongoing efforts to train and develop the new talent with these unique skills to meet their demand.
- Looking for state support regarding the road just outside the Yard which is in extremely poor condition. The shelter stand at the bus stop no longer has a top cover, exposing workers and Baltimore City interns to rain. Local jurisdiction meetings have not resulted in improvements to date. This makes it unattractive to workers, interns and potential future workforce that rely on the bus for their work commute.

Maryland Military Department – COL Patrick Hawkins, Chief of Staff, Maryland National Guard

- The MDNG has 38 Armories or Readiness Centers across the state.
- The Headquarters will likely transition from downtown Baltimore to Camp Fretterd.
- With loss of the Air mission, divestiture of the A10's and deactivation of the 175th Air Wing are almost complete. The Maryland Air National Guard is now the only Air National Guard in the U.S. without a flying mission.
- A Critical Infrastructure workshop with TTX was completed in August.
- The Maryland Military Department stays closely connected to its host communities.

Fort Detrick – COL Christopher Chung, Garrison Commander

- Fort Detrick has a multitude of tenant organizations, including representation from five cabinet-level departments.
- The Garrison also has oversight of the Forest Glen Annex and the Glenhaven Housing area in Montgomery County.
- Currently challenged with removing legacy steam pipe infrastructure.
- The historic Nalen Farmhouse is back under installation control.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – Mr. Varman Chhoeung, Deputy Garrison Commander

- APG is the largest employer in Harford County.
- To date the Garrison has received a 20% cut due to DoD downsizing. Most of that was accommodated with vacant positions.
- Also noted that APG has \$108M in annual utility bills, and although an Army installation, the Garrison is responsible for 144 miles of Chesapeake Bay coastline. Also assigned oversight of the Adelphi Laboratory Center and the Blossom Point research facility. There is now only one staff member at Blossom Point, and the facility may be divested to the Navy.

Fort Meade – Mr. Chad Jones, Garrison PAO

- The Garrison is seeking communications solutions to reach all Ft. Meade uniformed and civilian workforce personnel. These personnel are in different services and a variety of tenant organizations with their own comms systems. Reaching all with timely community information is the goal.
- The Garrison Office has dropped from 350 to 310 personnel authorizations and is rebalancing to provide the best level of services possible.
- Signed an MOU with the County on fire response, and an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with Howard County for stormwater management.
- A variety of services will be offered at the upcoming Retiree Appreciation Day.
- The Veterans Day event will be held 6 November.

Joint Base Andrews – Not represented due to conflicting U.S. Air Force conference.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – Not represented due to a last minute conflict.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – James Bolin, Vice President

- SMNA coordinates closely with the Pax Partnership (Bonnie Green) and The Roosevelt Group (Matt Herman).

Military Alliance Council (MAC) (Indian Head) – Steve Mitchell, President

- The Transportation Resiliency study is in progress.
- The ECMP is currently programmed for \$2.7B over the next 15 years. The local community will have to ramp up as well to prepare for this growth.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keane, President

- There seems to be adequate funding for shipbuilding facilities, but limited funding for workforce development. Therefore, the MTA promotes local STEM organizations as elements of the workforce pipeline.
- Will continue sponsorship and support for the bi-annual international submarine races hosted by Carderock.
- The Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard will again sponsor “Pathways,” a popular summer intern program.

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Tim O’Ferrall, Executive Director

- Roxanne Wood has replaced Joe Pacileo as the new FMA president.
- The \$120M renovation of the Meade High School is now complete.
- The Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center, whose renovation was gifted to the Army by the FMA and FMA Foundation, has now served 5,000 people with a variety of programs for service members and military families.
- The Project SCOPE program (Security Clearance Overview and Preparation Education) is expanding with intent to reach every middle school student in Anne Arundel County.
- The FMA Foundation Stars in Service Gala is scheduled for 18 October at Maryland Live Casino.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Kelly Spore, Executive Director

- The FDA is reaching out to grow membership. Jen Staiger's term as President extends through year-end. The Alliance VP David Evans is the incoming President.
- FDA and the Frederick Chamber of Commerce will host a "Coffee Collaboration" on 8 October.
- Planning a Quarterly Breakfast in November.
- The annual Technology Showcase, cosponsored by FITCI and the FDA, is scheduled for 6 November at the FITCI facility.

Army Alliance (AA) – Warline Bryant, Executive Director

- The Alliance has recognized biomanufacturing as a new focus area.
- U.S. Rep. Elfreth will visit APG on 24 September. An Army Alliance orientation is included.
- The Alliance will sponsor a fundraising golf tournament, date TBD.
- The annual breakfast is scheduled for 16 December.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABC) – Jim Estepp

- The JBA Air Show was attended by 160,000 people.
- New County leadership in place.

State Agency Remarks

Scott Goldman, Maryland Department of Environment expressed appreciation for the exchange of information.

Secretary Coker, Maryland Department of Commerce thanked all for their attendance, and asked for feedback, especially on suggested improvements. Email: harry.coker@maryland.gov.

Secretary Ed Rothstein, Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families noted that MDVMF has responsibility to 350,000 veterans who reside in Maryland, as well as oversight of Charlotte Hall and five cemeteries. MDVMF is putting new focus on easing the transition of military families into new communities. Email: ed.rothstein@maryland.gov.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:45 am.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 9.22.25
MMIC Slides 9.22.25
MMIC Attendee List 9.22.25