

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, December 11, 2023; 0830-1130

Meeting Minutes

The third MMIC meeting of 2023 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, overview of a grant opportunity for the state to support resilience planning in military communities, an overview of the Maryland Joins Forces efforts by the Governor's office and MDVA, a presentation by NSWCI on the Smart Arsenal modernization effort, a presentation on Easterseals Veteran Staffing Network Program, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 60.

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 several of the senior attendees:

- Kristin Byerly, University of MD Global Campus, newest MMIC member.
- Yolanda Rayford, Director Baltimore and Chesapeake Region, Blue Star Families.
- Delegate Mike Rogers, Maryland District 32 Delegate and Chair of the MD House Veterans Caucus. Delegate Rogers commented that the Veterans Caucus, with 74 members, is the largest among states, and operates in a bi-partisan manner.

Installation Resilience: A "One Community" Effort

Jennifer Chiasson, Senior Program Manager, Maryland Commerce, Office of Military & Federal Affairs
Sarah Diehl, Southern Maryland Regional Planner, Maryland Department of Planning

Installation Resilience Grant Opportunity:

- OLDCC, a DoD agency that provides grants to state and local governments has a grant opportunity for an installation resilience program to fund planning efforts outside the fence line to protect military assets (roads, schools, hospitals, utilities, etc.) in the community from natural or manmade hazards. Also have implementation funding via the IR program or DCIP.
- Five local communities (NSF IH, NSA Annapolis, NSA Bethesda, JBA Andrews, and NAS Pax River) are or have completed Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) projects to develop resilience plans for military assets in the community. Additional efforts are underway to fund MIRRs via OLDCC funding at Army installations in the state.
- OMFA and partners at MDP, MDEM and other agencies are now interested in aligning these local efforts with state initiatives, elevating needs or gaps in planning/implementation and supporting local communities with protecting assets in the community.
- Proposing the state organize around stakeholder engagement opportunities and develop a collaborative framework for collaboration for military resilience.
- Grant requires military support via a letter of support, participation in project oversight, and providing publicly releasable data.
- OMFA will be reaching out to the military in 2024 with specific requests. Goal for application is submission by May for FFY24 funding.

Compatibility Review Tool:

- MDP demoed the new [Compatibility Review tool](#) in the Maryland Military & Community Compatibility website. This tool provides planning professionals with access to publicly releasable military operational data in the state to help with land use planning decisions that are compatible with military missions.
- Requested support with distributing the tool to local communities

Maryland Joins Forces: Supporting Military Families and Veterans

Secretary Anthony Woods, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Woods described the MDVA mission as support for veterans, service members and their families.

- Strong families help veterans and service members thrive.
- Families are at the front line in most major decisions for service members and veterans.

Sec. Woods described a new initiative from Governor Moore, Maryland Joins Forces, to form a committee chaired by Lt. Gov. Miller to address five challenge areas for veterans, service members and families:

- Employment
- Education
- Food and housing insecurity
- Health and wellness
- Volunteer service

Ross Cohen will be the lead from MDVA.

Lisa Swoboda commented that the Association of Defense Communities supports this type of activity and would be a good potential collaborator for the committee. Lisa also encouraged the alliances to become ADC members, if not they are not currently members.

Sec. Woods discussed the need for compliance with interstate compacts regarding professional licensure reciprocity for military spouses. The Presidential Executive Order is for military spousal licensure recognition, not reciprocity. Labor stated that they are up to date with all their boards for licensing portability, and they are working on getting information to service members when they PCS so the information can get to their spouse.

Concern of the turnaround time for the state’s approval of a license is understood by the state - VA took 6 weeks to approve a nursing license and MD took 10 months. In addition to addressing the concern, Maryland is also working on adopting additional multi-state licensing compacts. MDE also has licensing boards and needs to be involved to comply.

Smart Arsenal: Advancing the NSWC Indian Head Mission

SES Ashley Johnson, Technical Director, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division

Mr. Johnson described the Indian Head mission as “full spectrum,” from R&D through production. He detailed the initiative to return the 133-year-old facility to full capacity with three thrust areas:

- Infrastructure
- Workforce
- New approach to partnerships

This initiative will be supported by a programmed \$2B+ investment over the next decade. Ms. Swoboda highlighted the scope and impact of such a substantial investment by the Department of the Navy.

Q&A:

- Q: Partnering with local communities on workforce development initiatives?

- A: Yes, with CSM but we need to do better with hiring. Needs 500-1000 more employees or 40% increase in workforce.
- Q: Issue is getting people onto the base?
 - A: Digital twin in a virtual environment could help with this. Need to know where is the location for synergy off-base in the county?
- Q: How is NSWC IH getting around the Navy hiring ceiling?
 - A: Reorganize/shift internally and look at federal contracting to support with CAC contractors. Also, NSWC IH is pushing back on that ceiling.
- Q: How to transform your workforce? Engineers may not have experience with manufacturing.
 - A: Attrition and training
- Q: How does one get started with NSWC IH?
 - A: Mechanical Engineering degrees are good. Concentration in energetic materials is attractive. No programs to support high school students working at NSWC IH and will get harder as they implement Smart Arsenal. Focused on speed. However, summer interns can get an intro to the processes and get their interest.
- Q: MAC partnership to look outside of the base at workforce programs like Southern Maryland 2030. Asked MAC to speak on those resources.
 - A: Lots of support from community colleges, the economic development office, and other local entities on workforce development. The EARN Maryland program also a good resource.
- Q: How to staff up?
 - A: Proximity clauses? Yes. In relationships with contractors for assistance with HR staffing. That workforce is required to execute manufacturing requirements, not the modernization piece.

Networking Break 10:00-10:15

Easterseals Veteran Staffing Network Program

Tricia Tyler, Vice President, Veteran Employment, Easterseals DC, MD and VA

The Easterseals organization provides several programs for veterans:

- Staffing Program which provides career coaching and job placement for veterans, transitioning active duty and spouses.
 - The coaching is individualized and tailored for each jobseeker.
 - A staffing agency with a social mission, working with recruiters to fill orders across all industry and service levels.
 - Focuses on the needs of the job seeker.
- A Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, which focuses on employment, not just providing housing accommodations.
- Behavioral health care clinic in Silver Spring serving veterans and their families.
 - Clinic accepts Tricare, which is important.
- In-home respite care for families with disabled children and community respite with support with drop-off services.
- Scholarships for the children of wounded warriors.
- Noted that MDOT is working with DLLR on staffing out state infrastructure projects and EasterSeals would like to collaborate with the state on that effort.

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

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

- Introduced Public Affairs Officer and Adam Lynch, new CPLO.

- Announcement of contractor for privatization of utilities effort is on hold. NSF IH holds the record for the amount of installation outages across the services.

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

- New Commander. Introduced Zoe Johnson, CPLO, and new PAO for installation.
- Security issues around base. Working with the city and county on shared jurisdiction with the US Attorney office. Increase traffic.
- Farragut sea wall with the City of Annapolis; on time and should be done soon. Working on addressing SLR with the city dock.
- New construction for cottages at Greenbury Point, 5-year project open to dependents, active duties and veterans.
- Working with the City of Annapolis on bike paths.

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

- Concerns continue about a clear policy on military spouse licensure reciprocity.
- Required to increase the number of firefighters for airfield operations. Working through that requirement and postured to add existing staff members to have four staff members per truck, an increase of 14 firefighters; opportunity for civilian firefighters/volunteers to fill one of those positions.
- Commissioned new VE charging stations; first air station to do so. Working on how to allow privately owned vehicles to use those stations, as right now they are only for the base fleet.
- MIRR grant with PG to create traffic resilience routes around the base from excessive flooding events.
- The 6th Aerospace Summit is planned for March 2024 at JBA. POC is Krist Zimmerman, CPLO for JBA.
- The next airshow at JBA is scheduled for September 2025. Bypassing 2024 event to accommodate Air Force Birthday.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermeier, Commanding Officer

- Three weeks ago, the Yard hosted a visit from the Secretary of the Navy.
- A sum of \$636M has been authorized to refurbish/modernize the facility, but these funds have yet to be appropriated.
- There are plenty of opportunities in the local area for community infrastructure projects. Many potholes, flooded roads, and a depressed area does not engender workforce attraction. City roads are the challenge.
- The Yard will again aggressively sponsor summer internships and are actively hiring high school graduates.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – CSM Paul Denson, Garrison Command Sergeant Major

- The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program at APG has begun a recruiting initiative, relying on young soldiers to relate their own experience with enlisting in the Army. Bringing students in to APG to understand what being a soldier looks like at barracks, commissary, etc.
- The Garrison hosted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony on 30 Nov.
- The installation will participate in the Wreaths Across America program this weekend.
- The Garrison actively supports tenant initiatives such as the establishment of a regional bio manufacturing hub.
- Recently installed 15 new (solar based) electric vehicle charging stations on APG; only for use by government vehicles.

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- Fort Meade has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities as one of five “Great American Defense Communities” for 2023. COL Sapp described the partnership with the state of Maryland and other MMIC members as having an impact on achieving this recognition, and in particular the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation and its renovation of Kuhn Hall. Only project labeled for the installation which reflected the intent of the project.
- The Fort Meade Garrison and Fort Meade Alliance moderated a panel discussion on schools issues and juvenile jurisdiction concerns at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum in early November.
- Among many tenants, Fort Meade hosts a recruiting brigade, which is focused on bolstering Army recruiting in the region. Requesting systematic support from the State to push schools to support recruitment rather than school by school, where the principal makes recruitment decisions, as is the current process.
- The garrison expects funding to establish a 8 megawatt solar farm on the installation. Great opportunity for net carbon emissions and will be put out for bid for the community.

Fort Detrick – Wil Plumley, Civilian Deputy to the Garrison Commander

- The installation is receiving \$32M to demolish the old Steam Sterilization Facility, which is no longer in use.
- On 21 Sep there was a huge turn-out for Retiree Day with over 150 veterans/retirees and their spouses. Secretary Woods was the speaker with 40 different support agencies who had exhibit tables. Also had a guest speaker on the Medicare program. The next Retiree Day is planned for 19 Sep 2024.
- The garrison is having difficulty hiring childcare workers. Staffing at the on-post childcare facilities is at 57%. Need Help!!
- Mr. Plumley described support for the local JROTC program and encouraged our other Maryland military communities to do the same. Needs support from the community for establishing or supporting recruitment for existing JROTC programs.

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

- The Maryland Military Department is working to retain the MDNG air mission at Martin State Airport in Middle River. Trying to keep fighter air guard mission in the state. Requests Maryland’s support on that concern.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Lauren Hanyok, Digital Design & Manufacturing Lead NSWC Carderock Division, and Director Capital Tech Bridge (for CAPT Tardy)

- Strong partnerships with the county for student outreach for pre-interns and fellowships.
- New PIA with Maryland based Pike District helping with outreach and licensing. Co-hosting simulcast for SBIR.
- CRADA with JHU for research opportunities. Sharing lab spaces and vice versa.
- K-12, JROTC, sea cadets coming to field trips for site visits. Haven’t seen a lot of local school districts so have reached out to 18 of 24 counties to brief them on NSWC Carderock. Looking to get more involved in the classroom.
- Summer internships – have closed all calls for internships but going through review and application schedule and will share more at next MMIC. 77 students from UMD. Carderock was the 3rd top choice for the program.
- Expanded SMART program and also focused on veterans program and defense civilian training.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– Not represented

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – Not represented

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Fort George G. Meade: A Great American Defense Community

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director MMIC, and Board of Directors American Defense Communities

Ms. Swoboda described the Association of Defense Communities' program which selects and designates five "Great American Defense Communities" every year. This is a competitive process and worthy of notable recognition. She showed a five-minute video clip which highlighted several programs to increase quality of life for service members and families, both on and off post. Foremost among these programs was the renovation of Kuhn Hall into an education and resiliency center whose creation was funded by the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation. COL Sapp, Garrison Commander, and Joe Pacileo, FMA President, also added some personal remarks.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Army Alliance (AA) – Sue Nappi, Executive Director

- The Army Alliance annual breakfast on 30 November was successful, with a panel discussion on development of a regional bio-manufacturing hub.
- The Army Alliance will complete the last of a dozen or so interviews with APG tenant organization senior leaders seeking input to develop our federal and state legislative agendas.
- The Army Alliance is taking the lead on organizing the Maryland military alliance legislative lunch event at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis on 31 Jan.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Christy Butler, Executive Director

- The Alliance sponsored a quarterly networking breakfast on 18 October, with a speaker and focus on workforce recruiting, development and retention.
- The FDA will continue monthly networking breakfasts with a relevant topic.
- Frederick City has started a youth apprenticeship program.
- This coming weekend the Alliance will support the "Wreaths Across America" program at the Antietam battlefield.
- The FDA will participate in a prescreening on a motion picture entitled "Tribal," which focuses on the issues of veterans' suicide at Warehouse Cinema. Free event with networking and discussion. Christy to follow-up with details.

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Joe Pacileo, President

- The FMA-sponsored "Key Leaders Series" luncheon on 27 October with Lt. Gen. Haugh, Deputy Commander for USCYBERCOM, was well attended and very successful.
- The 21 Oct FMA "Stars in Service" gala at the Arundel Mills Live casino was attended by nearly 400 people and raised \$100,000 for the FMA Foundation.
- FMA's 20th anniversary was on 3 October. This milestone will be celebrated at the FMA President's Reception on 14 Dec at the BWI Hilton. Expect around 250 people in attendance.
- 20th year anniversary for FMA and lots of activity for the alliance and the base with the recognition from ADC. Raised \$5.4M for Kuhn Hall from the community.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keene, President

- The MTA board has been restructured to better distribute project support.
- Planning meetings with senior Navy leadership to express critical need and support to reconstitute premier shipbuilding capabilities at the Baltimore USCG Yard. Briefed on a strategic plan to reconstitute those capabilities. Fourth meeting on this issue.
- Suggestion that OMFA share a video about CGY intern program and Lisa is amenable to distributing.

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President

- Supporting the Indian Head revitalization described earlier.
 - Sponsored first annual outreach event to spread word on all the activities happening with Smart Arsenal
 - Indian Head Day outreach in November to reach out to private sector about revitalization efforts and Smart Arsenal
- Taking a major focus on workforce development initiatives; Working on collaborating with SMNA and TPP to bring Southern Maryland 2030 to the county.
- Supporting Alliance reception at the end of January.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – James Estep, Director

- There have been several senior leader changes of command ceremonies in the past few months.
- Reiterated concern with license reciprocity.
- Working with Andrews spouses to provide airmen without family with comforts.
- ABCA continues to support an on-post school program called “Imagine Andrews” which is a charter school that is coming up for renewal.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Bonnie Green, Executive Director, The Patuxent Partnership

- Bonnie Green from TPP provided comments on behalf of SMNA.
- The SMNA is advocating for additional MILCON to support labs and prototyping.
- SOMD 2030 capped out at 69 interns. Matching process will start at the beginning of 2024.
- Smart Career Awareness Fair with hands on demos from Pax River, contracting community, to make students aware of opportunities.
- Invited NSWC IH to see activities at NAS Pax River.
- Our next installation change of command is scheduled for Jan 10th.
- A high school competitive event is scheduled for Feb 24th with over 100 students from the state registered to attend.

State Agency Closing Remarks

Department of Transportation – Jawauna Greene, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Strategy

- It appears the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project has survived the proposed Maryland transportation funding cuts.
- Working with Labor on filing construction roles/needs for all the construction projects.

Department of Environment – Suzanne Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

- Acknowledged the installations work on electrification to help the state meet its needs for greenhouse gas emissions and thanked them for their work.

- Engaged in environmental resilience, stormwater management, saltwater intrusion, and other areas.
- The Department is engaged in resiliency and of course will support the Military Installation Resiliency Review initiatives.
- DOE's #1 priority is equity in environmental policy and enforcement.

Veterans Administration – Anthony Woods, Secretary, thanked Ms. Swoboda and attendees for a well-run meeting, wished everybody happy holidays, and “See you next year!”

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:40 am.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 12.11.2023

MMIC Slides 12.11.2023

MMIC Attendee List 12.11.2023