

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, March 13, 2023; 0830-1200

Meeting Minutes

The first MMIC meeting of 2023 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, comments from a guest speaker, a status report from the MMIC Workforce Committee, updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, the Maryland National Guard, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 65.

Welcome Remarks

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. Ms. Swoboda commented on the following:

- Fort Meade has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) as one of five 2023 Great American Defense Communities. She also encouraged attendees to join ADC and recognized Karen Holt as the new ADC President as well as the new Harford County Economic Development Director.
- Our office continues to work on the spousal licensing issue.
- The Alliances are supporting “Support our Heroes” legislation, introduced by Governor Moore, to increase the Maryland military retirement tax exemption amount and eliminate the age threshold.
- In cooperation with ADC, our office will conduct a Maryland Defense Forum, scheduled for 5-6 June in Annapolis. More information to follow soon.

Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair, welcomed attendees and gave an overview of his professional background and how it has prepared him in his role as the new Secretary of Commerce. He emphasized the impact and value of the Maryland installations and defense communities. He recognized Maryland has a highly educated workforce, STEM engagement and R&D activity but also that we lack in economic growth compared to other states, especially as it relates to pandemic recovery. He appreciates the economic impact of the military mission in the state, and looks forward to visiting the installations and interacting with leadership and staff. He acknowledged the governor’s priority to support infrastructure funding for innovation, which could fund new labs, manufacturing facilities, cybersecurity infrastructure and more. He supports economic equality and the Fair Wage Act, the Employer Security Tax Credit; tools which will help Maryland remain competitive.

Keynote Speaker:

LTG Kevin Vereen, G-9, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations, Energy and Environment

- LTG Vereen discussed how communities partner with the military.
- He noted a signing ceremony at Fort Meade to recognize the Army’s 100th Intergovernmental Support Agreement. The service issue of this Fort Meade IGSA is stormwater management, which was signed in partnership with Howard County. Currently there are 200 IGSA across the services, 112 at Army installations.

- LTG Vereen discussed priorities for Army installation management:
 - Housing: The housing issues are interdependent with school systems. Since FY20, funding for housing improvements has increased and a bill of rights for military families was executed.
 - Childcare: Must address shortfalls both on and off the installation. Five new CDC have been completed in the past year, with 10 more under construction. The larger problem is manning the CDC with qualified childcare workers. Measures to recruit childcare workers include bonuses for new providers, access to defense commissaries, discounts for the children of childcare workers, and educational/professional development opportunities.
 - Spousal Employment: We enlist soldiers; but we reenlist families. So reducing barriers for spouse employment enables retention of service members. Among incentives is a program to provide up to \$1,000 to support licensure reimbursement costs after a relocation. Options to work remotely also enable opportunities for spouse employment.
 - Installation Resiliency: Our installations provide the essential capabilities to project military power. The most frequent problem is a weather event. Installations must be able to ensure electric power in emergency situations. Exploring microgrids, privatizing utilities, harvesting/conserving water, and grid protections are all in play.
 - Two other priorities, where other organizations have the lead, are PCS moves and military and family medical care.
- The Army's relationship with Maryland is critical. Mutual benefit in that partnership is that the military brings employment and the related economic impact into the community, and the community allows the military to leverage expertise and resources beyond the fence line.
- The Services, including the Army, are all having difficulty with recruiting. It is all about the people! We need everybody to help recruit.
- Questions from the audience included a request for a meeting with LTG Vereen's office, a comment about salary being the root cause for child care shortages, and how IGSA's and multi-generational support from retirees could support childcare needs, incentives for spousal employment via educational opportunities, and the need to synchronize policy and infrastructure with existing EV fleets.

MMIC Workforce Committee Update

Jill McClune, Co-chair of the MMIC Workforce Committee and Past President Army Alliance

- (See accompanying briefing charts)
- The MMIC workforce survey conducted last fall identified workforce challenges across installations.
- Input was broken up into four areas to be led by subcommittee teams. The initial kickoff for these teams is in progress, and the teams are looking into initiatives that will have a statewide impact.
 - Team 1: Recruitment/talent
 - Team 2: Retention of veterans - exemption for military/retirement pay, Veterans Affairs groups, educational best practices for transition
 - Team 3: Spousal employment/licensure -- DoD would like to see every state provide spousal licensure within 30 days of PSC. Compacts are gold standard and provide models; nursing compact an example of a compact. Forming a compact in every license will take massive, lengthy effort and requires negotiation state by state and may drag down progress with reciprocity. Maryland needs a gap analysis to see where the state can support.

- Team 4: Affordable housing & childcare -- impacts some communities more than others, but need to look at what the state legislature can do to positively impact all defense communities in Maryland.
- Questions from the audience included Maryland's participation in the nursing compact, a concern with the DoD prioritizing compacts over reciprocity, a suggestion for more military representation on the subteams, and a push to make all Maryland schools purple star schools better support military families.
- The slide deck will be emailed to all MMIC attendees at the email address provided at check in.

Networking break 10:00 – 10:20

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

Maryland National Guard – BG Adam Flasch, Joint Staff Director, MD National Guard

- Secured \$32M funding needed for runway expansion.
- The A10 airframe is at the end of its service life. The runway at Martin State airport must be lengthened to support the F16 and F22 aircraft.
- The MDNG has fielded an organic cyber defense capability headquartered at Martin State airport.
- MOA with Applied research lab @ UMD (ARLISS) for cybersecurity work.
- Building more MDNG readiness centers.

Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander

- Fort Detrick is the second largest employer in Frederick County and is a significant investment in the community. Working on rebuilding ties that were lost during COVID and making progress on collaboration.
- There are currently 11,000 employees, with 2000 in uniform.
- Installation recently responded to tanker fire on Route 270.
- Although it is an “Army” installation, five cabinet level agencies are represented on Fort Detrick.

Naval Support Facility Indian Head – CAPT Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac

- CAPT Copeland's change of command is scheduled for June.
- NSF Indian Head continues to cope with environmental challenges and has invested over \$100M in environmental cleanup. Installation continues to engage with EPA. EPA is rebaselining all the original assessments done over previous years due to complete personnel changeovers.
- A new, and only grocery store within 15 miles, broke ground this week in Indian Head. This is critical to the QOL for on-base military as well as the local community.
- Regarding use of electric vehicles, there are currently no charging stations on the installation, nor in town.
- The installation has been working with Charles County and MDOT to identify and prioritize needed upgrades on Route 210 at the entrance to the base in the Town of Indian Head. They are having repeated and serious gate runners with the straight on entrance guard station to base.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Todd Hutchinson, Commanding Officer, and Mr. Dave Drazen, Chief Technology Officer

- CAPT Hutchinson's change of command is scheduled for May.
- NSWC Carderock currently has 2000 employees.

- Carderock recently hosted a Small Business Industry Day, with 60 companies registered and 40 in attendance. In 2022 the contracting office executed 120+ small business transactions for \$14M. For FY23, 42 contract actions with \$12M in funding so far.
- Carderock also recently co-hosted a job fair with Montgomery County and has more events planned for veterans and wounded warriors.
- A Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) awarded in 2022 will benefit a Carderock activity located in Florida. (The DCIP is funded at \$100M this year, and the local commander's letter of endorsement is vitally important.)
- The Carderock submarine races are scheduled 25-30 June, with teams from 20 schools, including a few Maryland high school teams. A VIP Day is scheduled for 29 June.

Coast Guard Yard – CDR Lauren Dufrene, Executive Officer

- The Curtis Bay Yard has been operating since 1899. The infrastructure is ancient, with much of it predating WWII.
- Dredging Curtis Bay channel is a CG priority; just completed an environmental assessment and now working on the permitting process.
- Met with the MMIC workforce committee, and the USCG Yard maintains a strong alliance with the Digital Harbor School in Baltimore. We still have a gap of 70+ vacancies and need help with recruitment/talent acquisition.
- Some of the workforce recruitment problems could be alleviated with direct hiring authority for the trades.

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

- NAS Pax has contributed \$20M for land preservation of 12,000+ acres to protect the mission and continues to partner with the State, local government, environmental groups via the REPI program.
- \$2.7M award to restore shoreline erosion on the northern boundary of the installation, which will also protect wildlife.
- The installation is working with St. Mary's County to:
 - Lower speed limits in some areas close to the base
 - Provide disclosures for apartment renters to notify them of noise and air operation risks in aircraft accident potential zones; already included in housing disclosures
 - Restrict plastic bags
- A hurricane response exercise is scheduled for late April.

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Homer Denius, Commanding Officer

- NSA Annapolis maintains a close partnership with the City of Annapolis and the state, and is working with those partners on the Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) project.
- CAPT Denius' change of command will be in July.
- The refurbishment of McDonough Hall is almost complete.
- NSA Annapolis has worked with Army Corps of Engineers to designate down-range safety and buffer zones when the Greenbury Point firing range is in use. These areas will be closed to the public when the range is hot.

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

- JB Andrews is "America's Airfield" and has representation from every service.
- Hosted MLK observance ceremony and remembrance presentation

- Honorary member program recently hosted an event to recognize influencers in the community that supports the base's mission; 15 community leaders were recognized.
- Hosted the 5th annual STEAM event, with 300 K-12 students in 14 workshops.
- Another STEAM event is planned for April 20th.
- On June 8th JBA will host a small business summit "How to do Business with JBA."
- Recognized that MD Senate passed SB115 which establishes concurrent jurisdiction for juvenile offenses on military installations

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- Fort Meade Garrison hosted an Army 100th Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) signing ceremony.
- Installation leadership is trying to redefine "power projection" to include Ft. Meade, on the premise that "ones & zeros" are at least as important as "beans & bullets."
- The Navy and Marine Corps have each established new two-star headquarters at Ft. Meade but not synchronizing requirements with growth.
- Damage from the Christmas Day storm has been assessed at \$300-500k from burst pipes
- Guns and drugs at the on-base middle school is a problem.
- Staffing shortages across the board, but especially with childcare providers and engineers. These issues compound behavioral issues.
- For service members working in a classified environment, it is difficult to diagnose and treat mental disorders due to TS clearance.
- Although electric vehicles offer environmental advantages, their reliability is affected by the availability and location of charging stations.
- Just signed an air emissions certificate for 2022 and have reduced air pollution.
- The Garrison will support a "Meade Cluster Day" in the spring.
- Acknowledged the Great American Defense Community recognition and Fort Meade Alliance support of Kuhn Hall.
- Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) are great, but mutual support agreements can be just as effective and easier to achieve.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander

- COL Casiano's change of command is scheduled for June 15th.
- Regarding electric vehicles, expect restrictions on use for transporting energetics and munitions due to arcing/sparking potential.
- Regarding aging infrastructure, the average age of facilities at APG is 80 years, with 800 structures categorized as Q3/Q4, which is poor. There is excess space that could be reclaimed, especially if significant remote work persists.
- Regarding workforce issues, APG has reached out to Harford Community College to expedite a 2-year accreditation for child care workers, and a certification for security personnel.

Naval Activity Bethesda – Not represented

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Military Alliance President Remarks

Army Alliance (AA) – Tony Lisuzzo, President

- The Army Alliance annual luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th at the Waters' Edge Event Center, with BG Adam Flasch, Director of the Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard, as the guest speaker. Will be recognizing the 2023 Defense Community Champion, Curtis Beulah and updates from Jill McClune on Army Alliance initiatives and updates on Discovery Center.
- Discussed support for a Discovery & Science Center in the Aberdeen area.
- The new Harford County Executive, Bob Cassilly, a veteran and former state senator, is very supportive of the base and focused on the base as a source for skilled workforce and new opportunities for county/APG partnerships.
- The Army Alliance is positioning to compete for a grant to establish a regional bio-manufacturing hub.
- A congressional staff visit is scheduled for 11 April.
- Thanks to the other alliances for support to the Governor's legislative initiative to exempt military retirement pay from Maryland taxation.

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President

- Supported NSWC IH Division Industry Day in February with over 100 companies participating.
- The MAC advocated for the soon-to-be-open Oasis grocery store, which will be the only grocery store within 15 miles of the Indian Head installation.
- Partnership with St. Mary's County to brief SoMD delegation on alliance activities and future needs.
- MAC will be supporting the College of Southern Maryland in a variety of STEM events.
- MAC has provided input for the Indian Head federal priorities as requested.

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

- SMNA is supporting the Southern Maryland Workforce 2030 initiative to increase the availability of internships and apprenticeships. 40 companies participating.
- SMNA is also supporting the Junior Science and Humanities program.
- Second Maryland Airspace Day.
- The Patuxent Partnership Industry Partnership Day is scheduled with joint capabilities demos.
- State of the base address is scheduled for March 24th.
- SMNA has actively supported the Governor's "Keep our Heroes Home" legislation to reduce the state taxation of military retirement pay.

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

- The Fort George G. Meade Region has been designated one of five "2023 Great American Defense Communities" by the Association of Defense Communities for recognition of Kuhn Hall.
- The Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center opened 17 Nov 2022 with seven additional kiosks spread across the installation. The Kuhn Hall renovation was a \$5.4M gift from the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation, available to any and all service members, families, veterans and retirees.
- The National Security Agency is planning to hire 3000 new employees this year. This will be a challenge as there are currently 20,000 IT/Cyber position vacancies in the region.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Jeannine Mantz, Member

- The MTA has been advocating workforce issues for the Coast Guard Yard.
- MTA is again supporting the “Let’s Go Boys & Girls” STEM program

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Not represented

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

State Agency Closing Remarks

MDOR/State Highway Administration – Tim Smith, SHA Administrator

- SHA will provide commanders with a list of MDOT/SHA project status in the vicinity of each installation.

Department of Planning – Rebecca Flora, Secretary

- Ms. Flora commented on the impact of the State’s military installations.
- She expects the Governor’s cabinet to be extremely collaborative and supportive.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and for staying beyond the scheduled finish, and adjourned the session at 12:00 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 3.13.2023

MMIC Slides 3.13.2023

MMIC Attendee List 3.13.2023