

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, October 4, 2021; 9:00 – 12:00

Meeting Minutes

The fall 2021 MMIC meeting was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included updates from the Maryland installation commanders and the Maryland National Guard, remarks from guest speakers and Congressman Ruppberger, and updates from the alliance presidents. Total attendance was 82.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs welcomed attendees to the “live” meeting and provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda. She acknowledged that MMIC Chair and Secretary of Commerce Kelly Schulz had to cancel at the last minute. Ms. Swoboda commented on several issues:

- Reviewed information from Chris Arnold, the northeast region Defense State Liaison Officer for DoD:
 - DoD legislative priorities for the State of Maryland in the upcoming session to include the passage of two previously introduced bills to support the adoption of the Purple Star Schools Program and to provide license portability for military spouses and active-duty members.
 - Forthcoming legislative priorities for DoD that are currently being socialized to include concurrent jurisdiction for military family juveniles and employment protections for National Guard members working in Maryland but living outside of the state.

Installation Commander Updates – Air Force, National Guard, Army

Joint Base Andrews – Col Tyler Schaff, 316th Wing and Installation Commander

- JBA has issues with drones over the installation and in the airspace. The complex flight profiles and times of day suggest other than recreational drone operators, so this is a major security issue.
- The installation is working with Maryland Department of the Environment to scope a 100-year flood plain study, required for new construction.
- An Air Show and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) event for 10,000 students is planned for 16-18 Sep 2022, for the USAF 75th anniversary.

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

- The MDNG is still busy supporting COVID response with vaccine distribution and mobile vaccination teams.
- The MDNG has unique cyber defense and military intelligence capabilities and has supported multiple organizations impacted by cyber attacks.
- MDNG maintains international partnerships and joint training with Estonia and Bosnia.
- In addition to the COVID and cyber attack response, the MDNG has also participated in multiple worldwide deployments and is prepared and available for civil defense contingencies.

Fort Meade – COL Chris Nyland, Garrison Commander

- At 67,000 military and civilian employees on-base, Ft. Meade has the largest workforce in Maryland, 2nd largest in the Army, and continues to grow.
- The installation recently welcomed the 7th Signal Command and expects an additional increase of 4,000 new personnel over the next few years. Additionally, the workforce in off-post office parks will move onto Ft. Meade over several years, increasing the on-post growth by +7,000, which generates the necessity of traffic and access improvements now. \$4B in construction projects on the installation over the next 6 years is programmed to enable this growth. Good partnerships with BGE and other utilities will support this construction and growth.
- COL Nyland again expressed gratitude to the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation for their gift of the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center, and the associated resiliency kiosks.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander

- This is COL Casiano's first MMIC meeting since assuming command in June.
- APG is 6th largest employer in MD. However, with less than 1000 active duty on-post, and 50% of the workforce working remotely, many of the MWR services, largely dependent on foot traffic, are underused and in danger of being reduced.
- The campaign to demolish and remove contaminated infrastructure on APG South has completed Phase I and begun Phase II, which is currently funded through 2028, and proceeding on schedule. As these old buildings come down, the vacant space will posture APG South for growth.
- The Skippers Point area of Edgewood will also be available for future development.

Fort Detrick – COL Danford Bryant II, Garrison Commander

- COL Bryant has been in command since mid-July. This is his first MMIC meeting.
- Ft. Detrick is also dealing with unauthorized drones operating over or near the installation.
- Expect a DOD policy announcement this week on immunizing the federal workforce.
- Negotiations continue with Frederick County too provide emergency back-up water source.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Networking break 10:10-10:30

Serving Together Project Presentation – Ms. Swoboda introduced Katie Kilby, Program Director for Serving Together, a nonprofit organization with the mission to connect those who serve with services in their community, covering Northern Virginia, Washington, DC and 12 counties in Maryland. The program is a one-stop-shop network serving all military, veterans, families and caregivers in the Central Maryland region. They facilitate Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) arrivals, provide training on family-related issues, host informal meetings for information and networking, and publish a biweekly newsletter. Ms. Kilby can be contacted at kkilby@every-mind.org, (410) 541-6056. (Chart attached)

Installation Commander Updates – Coast Guard, Navy

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commander

- The Yard currently has 720 employees, 85% civilian.
- Aging infrastructure is a persistent issue, with an average facility age of 57 years.

- The waterfront construction of the Roland Lewis ship-lift expansion project, which will increase docking capacity by 40% and provide a unique capability for refitting larger vessels, is 55% complete and continuing on schedule. Whiting-Turner is the managing contractor.
- CAPT Skwarek is working hard to restart the internship program and hire entry level workers.

Patuxent Naval Air Station – CAPT John Brabazon, Commander

- NAS Pax received the first Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant awarded in Maryland. The \$564,000 will enable roadwork construction by St. Mary’s County to improve traffic flow to Gate #2.
- The installation has an active Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with St. Mary’s County.

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – Mr. Michael Curry, Deputy Commander

- NSA Annapolis has similar infrastructure and security issues as described by other commanders.
- As experienced at several other Maryland installations, utilization of morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) services is down, presenting decisions to reduce or eliminate some services.
- Construction on the Naval Institute conference center is complete, and the facility has opened.
- A resilience study with USNA/NSA Annapolis and the City of Annapolis should be completed in December.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Scott Switzer, Commanding Officer

- CAPT Switzer has been in command 4 ½ months. This is his first MMIC meeting.
- The current big issue for NSA Bethesda is accommodating Afghan refugees and their family members.
- The hospital complex sees 14,000 patients/day. Major MILCON continues with the \$602M construction of a new hospital building.
- The underground crossing from the Metro station under MD Route 355, connecting NSA Bethesda and NIH, is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony has been postponed but will be rescheduled.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Mr. David Drazen, Chief Technology Officer

- NSWC Carderock currently employs a workforce of 2800, with \$800 million of direct site work.
- Among other projects is the recently conducted successful shock trials of the USS Gerald R. Ford.
- NSWC Carderock is supporting several installation and community STEM outreach activities and is participating for the third year in the Einstein Fellowship program.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – Mr. Tom Hastings, Community Planning Liaison Officer

- The installation is currently at HPCON B+, with minimal impacts to operations.

Maryland Compatible Use Planning Program Update

Compatible Use Technical Guidebook and Website – Eric Spillman reviewed the project organization and deliverables, including the website to be designed and implemented. (Charts attached)

Renewable Energy Siting Study – Patrick Small, Matrix Design Group, reviewed the in-progress Compatible Use Energy Siting Study, which will include military impact assessments for each major installation. The study should be complete by February 2022. (Charts attached)

At this point Ms. Swoboda interrupted the scheduled sequence and introduced Rep. Ruppertsberger.

Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger, 2nd District, Maryland

- Congressman Ruppertsberger represents the 2nd Maryland District, which includes Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground. He serves on the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, and co-chairs the Army Caucus.
- The House has recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act, and also a Continuing Resolution.
- The congressman discussed the threats posed by Russia and China, with emphasis on technology competition as exemplified by the Chinese Huawei company's alleged technology piracy. He also speculated that the next world war will be in space.
- He commented on and lamented the current partisan state of national affairs, and the inability of political leadership to reach consensus on major issues.
- He also stated that he continues to work hard for the state of Maryland, citing the new Cyber facilities and sea wall reinforcement at the U.S. Naval Academy as a recent example. He thanked everybody present for what they do to support the military installations in Maryland.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Ivan Caplan, President

- The MTA supports both Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Carderock and the Coast Guard Yard.
- Mr. Caplan described an initiative to attract talent to the Carderock workforce.
- The increasing workload at the Coast Guard Yard is stressing the aging facilities. The MTA is pursuing legislative relief.
- The Coast Guard expects \$1B for two new icebreakers.

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Pam Frank, Executive Director

- NSWC Indian Head shares the same workforce and resource issues as other installations.
- Carderock has 380 new hires including 80 recent graduates.
- There are currently 300+ Marines stationed on the installation, with limited local services and activities.
- There is a focus on unmanned vehicle test infrastructure.
- Carderock is working with the U.K. and Australia on a submarine program.
- The MAC continues to work on economic development issues, to include growth at the Velocity Center at Indian Head and a possible feeder airport. There are associated environmental issues.
- There is a need for more veterans' services in Charles County.
- The Coast Guard Yard modernization plan needs additional funding, hence a request for \$25 billion is going to Congress.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Not represented. SMNA President, Gary Kessler, had to depart early for another engagement.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Not represented (due to a potential COVID exposure)

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Doreen Harwood, President

- The FMA maintains a close relationship with the Fort Meade Garrison.
- FMA hosted 44 virtual events in the past 18 months during the COVID pandemic.
- FMA completed and ongoing projects include:
 - Enabling a \$400k grant for a Cyber Lab at Fort Meade High School
 - Implementing a healthy cooking initiative
 - Working on a 911 mental health hotline
 - A published white paper on Cyber workforce issues, to include recommendations on attraction and retention of talent
- The FMA top priority continues to be the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center project and the associated Resiliency Kiosks, which will open in November. A recognition and fundraising gala are scheduled for 9 April 2022, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony anticipated for August 2022.

Army Alliance (AA) – Tony Lisuzzo, President

- Army Alliance legislative priorities include continued funding for the Army Facilities Reduction Program, and support to complete the contaminated facilities reduction program on APG South.
- The Alliance is advocating a legislative initiative to exempt military retirement pensions from the Maryland state income tax, with a goal to attract and retain mid-career workforce talent within the state. The Alliance has proposed the creation of a coalition of Maryland military alliances to support this and other issues to the Maryland General Assembly.
- Mr. Lisuzzo provided copies of a handbook entitled “Alphabet Suit: Navigating Doing Business with Aberdeen Proving Ground,” and invited those in attendance to take a copy.

Maryland State Agency Updates

Department of Planning – Secretary McCord stressed the importance of the Maryland Compatible Use Planning project. He also highlighted the State Data Center as a resource if needed.

Department of Veterans Affairs – Ms. Noe had nothing to add that had not already been discussed.

Department of Transportation – No report: Mr. Crampton was called away at last minute.

Conclusion

Recurring key issues throughout the program were:

- Concern regarding implementation of the 28 November vaccine requirement for the civilian workforce and contactors on-base.
- Continuing challenges with workforce recruiting and retention.

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for their participation, and for participating beyond the scheduled noon finish. Expect the next MMIC to be another live event in early spring. Ms. Swoboda adjourned the session at 12:45 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 10.04.2021
MMIC Slides 10.04.2021
MMIC Attendee List 10.04.2021