

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, September 12, 2022; 0830-1200

Meeting Minutes

The fall 2022 MMIC meeting was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included remarks from guest speakers, updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders and the Maryland National Guard, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 75.

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 introduced MMIC Chair and Maryland Secretary of Commerce, Mike Gill.

Mike Gill, Secretary of Commerce, welcomed attendees, emphasized the importance of the military mission in Maryland, and specifically the economic impact of the state's military installations.

Homecoming 250: Navy/Marine Corps

Bob Carullo, Executive Director, SMART Congressional Initiative

- Mr. Carullo briefly described the SMART (Strengthening the mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow) program.
- In recognition of the Navy/Marine Corps 250th anniversary, there will be a "Drive Across America" to highlight workforce issues.

Project SEARCH

Stacey Herman, Assistant Vice President, Neurodiversity and Community Workforce Development, Kennedy Krieger Institute

- Project SEARCH is a 10-month program that provides training and support to place those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the workforce.
- Much of the training is individualized, and the support team works with employers to ensure appropriate placement.
- Kennedy Krieger will conduct a SEARCH conference 22-24 March 2023 in Washington, DC.

Federal Defense Community Partner Resources

(This presentation was scheduled to be a community partnership panel including Patrick O'Brien, Director DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, and Chris Arnold, Northeast Regional Liaison, DoD Military Community and Family Policy, Defense State Liaison Office. However, both had to cancel at the last minute.)

Matt Boron, Executive Director, Association of Defense Communities (ADC)

- Mr. Boron described the ADC organization and its legislative advocacy. A recent example of ADC influence is an anticipated increase in the Defense Community Infrastructure Program funding to \$150M for FY23.

- Mr. Boron emphasized the opportunities and benefits of community and state investments in defense communities and encouraged strong collaboration with the regional Defense State Liaison Officer.
- ADC is sponsoring the annual Installation Innovation Forum 31 Oct – 2 Nov, in Phoenix AZ. Many installation and base commanders will attend.

Baltimore Federal Executive Board

Ms. Swoboda introduced **Ms. Cynthia Cavalieri, Executive Director, Baltimore Federal Executive Board**. With regard to the Maryland military installations, the Executive Board focuses on employee safety and emergency response, workforce development, and strategic partnerships.

Networking break 9:45-10:15

MMIC Workforce Committee Briefing

Jill McClune, Co-Chair, MMIC Workforce Committee

- Ms. McClune described a survey that will be distributed to the installation tenant organizations to collect inputs on post-pandemic workforce issues and requested the installation and base commanders assist in distribution to major tenant organizations.
- The Workforce Committee is requesting responses by 30 Sep, which will be used to identify and assess issues as reported, and to develop initiatives among military installation stakeholders to address those issues where a solution or mitigation may be possible.

Maryland State Agency Remarks

Tyler Abbott, Chief of Staff, Maryland Department of Environment

- PFAS/PFOS regulatory guidance is problematic, in that the new limits are practically zero.
- Those installations or federal facilities that have PFAS/PFOS presence may be classified under the Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. This will lead to more expensive clean-ups and testing requirements.
- MDE is supportive of the various military installation resiliency initiatives.

Maryland Veteran Resources

Dana Burl, Program Director for Communications, Outreach and Advocacy, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

- Ms. Burl described the contents and availability of the MDVA Community Partner Tool Kit.
- The MDVA is modernizing how we say “Welcome Home” to returning veterans. Rather than an envelope stuffed with paper collateral, there is now a single card with a variety of electronic links, and a digital “Welcome Home” guide.
- MDVA publishes a meaty bi-weekly newsletter. Subscribe at <https://veterans.maryland.gov>
- MDVA Secretary Owens emphasized engagement and distribution of the newsletter. Over the past decade, distribution of the newsletter has increased from around 2000 to over 200,000.

Installation Commander Updates

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – CAPT Homer Denius, Commanding Officer

- Federally-directed renaming of several NSA Annapolis buildings and facilities is in progress.
- The McDonough Hall \$45M/3 year renovation project is in progress.

- The YP pier and seawall on the Severn River are degraded, and will be replaced.
- The Greenbury Point restoration project is in planning.
- The Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) will be completed in December. Looking into a DCIP project that is supportive of the MIRR recommendations.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Scott Switzer, Commanding Officer

- NSA Bethesda has several ongoing construction projects, to include a \$70M barracks repair and upgrade project.
- COVID-19 restrictions are back to pre-pandemic levels, except for the hospital and other patient care facilities, where masks are still required.
- A significant command concern is needed repair of the fire station. It was built in the 1940's and has had ongoing issues.
- The NSA Bethesda community outreach program will increasingly open the gates to the general public for events to enhance community relations.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermeier, Commanding Officer

- The Yard is currently performing a lot of work on foreign weapons systems, including the recent delivery of vessels to Uruguay and an upcoming one to Ukraine.
- Community outreach is a command focus area.
- Noted a continuing persistent difficulty in hiring skilled shipyard workers. Working with the state to restart their apprenticeship program.

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

- The Free State Challenge Program is seeking sponsors. The 22-week MDNG program, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, provides a challenging and motivational experience for high school dropouts, with most attaining a GED during the course, as well as job and life skills. A new facility is in the works to host the program. <https://freestate.mil.maryland.gov>
- With the A-10 air fame nearing the end of service life, MDNG is planning to continue flight operations at Martin State Airport.
- Working on a \$16M grant from the FAA to extend the runway.
- MDNG is planning to build a second cyber facility at Fort Meade, and to build a third SCIF for cyber-work.
- MDNG is the designated lead agency for the Governor's inauguration.

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

- JBA has workforce issues similar to the other installations in hiring and retention, particularly in the soft sciences (mental health for example).
- The base is trying to work through childcare availability challenges.
- JBA is one of three pilot AF installations with electric vehicle charging stations.
- JBA has been a partner in the SEARCH program (see SEARCH entry above), with numerous program graduates now working on JBA.
- As their MIRR shows flood impacts and tree and vegetation concerns, JBA is coordinating with several federal agencies for the eight permits required to trim trees adjacent to runways.
- The 75th anniversary of the Air Force will be celebrated this weekend at the JBA Air Show, which will feature STE(A)M exhibits for families.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander

- Introduced Mr. Michael Kreilein, the new Deputy Garrison Commander.
- The garrison is leading an initiative to revamp the hiring process to address installation-wide workforce issues.
- The installation has implemented a telework/remote work policy.
- APG hosted a successful Immersion Day for community leaders on 22 Aug.
- Garrison command focus areas include reduction in non-standard ammo, reduction of infrastructure footprint, and reduction of utilities demand.
- The garrison FMWR activities is back to breaking even since the beginning of the pandemic.

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- Ft. Meade will conduct a full-scale Force Protection exercise on 24 Sep.
- The installation will host a veteran and retiree day on 28 Oct.
- The Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center ribbon cutting is scheduled for 17 Nov.
- Within the next 3-5 years, 8-10k employees will be relocating to the fort as part of a regional office consolidation.

Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander

- Fort Detrick is maintaining strong lines of communication with local community organizations.
- The installation is planning a full-scale emergency response exercise for 2023.
- The new BSL4 laboratory is nearing completion and certification.
- Ft. Detrick tenant organizations are experiencing similar workforce issues, particularly in filling highly or uniquely skilled positions; there are 80 job openings within just the Garrison, and the rising cost of living is a concern for many.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River– CAPT Derrick Kingsley, Commander

- Introduced Alec Young as the new Community Planning Liaison Officer for NAS Pax.
- NAS Pax is investing to maintain infrastructure.
- The MQ 25 contractor has new space requirements which will lead to construction of a new hanger.
- The installation personnel footprint will increase by 200 over the next few years.
- The Air Traffic Control Tower is a high priority.
- Recently received a \$2.7M REPI grant for environmental restoration resulting in the conservation of 100 acres.
- The installation will begin seeking the numerous permits necessary to remove tall trees that encumber the runway approach.
- Retaining workforce talent is a persistent problem.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – CDR Brian Koch, NSA South Potomac Executive Officer

- Recently hosted congressional staff visits to the installation.
- Hosted an end-of-month meeting with EPA to review recent inspection findings.
- Completed a successful security assessment.
- The installation security force is hiring to fill vacant positions.
- The command is pursuing several community relations initiatives.
- Anticipated reopening of the Route 301 Bridge will benefit the Indian Head workforce and the entire community.

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

- NSWC Carderock is back to in-person outreach events.
- This past summer Carderock hosted 80 students as research interns and 20 visiting Navy faculty. They are proud to have 3 Einstein STEM program fellows on base.
- Carderock will host the international human-powered submarine race event in June 2023.
- The command looks forward to a visit from Commerce Secretary Gill in the next week.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Military Alliance President Remarks

Army Alliance (AA) – Jill McClune, President Emeritus

- Reported on the Army Alliance annual meeting in June, with speakers from key tenant organizations on Aberdeen Proving Ground, who discussed R&D efforts relative to the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Among the Army Alliance top federal priorities is working with the Maryland congressional delegation to obtain a budget line for the Chemical Security and Analysis Center at APG-Edgewood.
- The Army Alliance will continue working toward a complete Maryland tax exemption for military retirement pay. Thanks to the other alliances for supporting the initiative.

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Joe Pacileo, President

- Described the years-long FMA Foundation initiative to refurbish and outfit Kuhn Hall as an Education and Resiliency Center, and proffer as a gift to the Ft. Meade installation.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center is scheduled for 17 Nov. Services will be available to active duty, retired military and military family members.

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

- The MAC is supporting the advancement of the Purple Star schools program with Charles County Public Schools. The Maryland state legislature in the past session enacted the bill establishing the program. Delegate Patterson was the sponsor in the House.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keane, President

- Discussed the need for investment to preserve unique maritime capabilities, such building, and specifically the ability to design, build and test the new DGX series of ships.
- Highlighted the nationwide shortage of dry-dock capacity.
- The MTA supports workforce development at Carderock to ensure the Navy will sustain the capability to develop new warships.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Not represented

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Not represented

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

MD State Agency Remarks

Secretary Robert McCord, MD Department of Planning emphasized the MDP Compatible Use initiative, and the necessity of installations and their local defense communities to be “good neighbors.”

Secretary George Owens, MD Department of Veterans Affairs thanked those in attendance, highlighted the improvements in veteran engagement over the past decade, and emphasized the importance of informing all veterans of available resources.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and staying on 30 minutes beyond the scheduled finish. Expect the next MMIC to be scheduled in early December. Ms. Swoboda adjourned the session at 12:00 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 9.12.2022

MMIC Slides 9.12.2022

MMIC Attendee List 9.12.2022