

Maryland Military Installation Council

2020 Annual Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE §11-207

Submitted by:

Maryland Department of Commerce

December 2020

Maryland Military Installation Council

2020 Annual Report

In accordance with Economic Development Article §11-207, this document constitutes the annual report of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) for calendar year 2020. The MMIC continues to be a forum for Maryland military installations, defense communities, defense businesses, State agencies and elected officials to dialogue on issues associated with Maryland's military installations. Recognizing the nation is in a constantly turbulent defense spending environment, the MMIC remains focused on the Department of Defense budget impacts, mission realignment and basing decisions, potential Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activity, and relevant issues among the Maryland installations, associated defense communities, and supporting defense industry.

The MMIC met only once in 2020, on December 7th. The usual spring meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The December meeting was conducted virtually as a Microsoft Teams Live Event, split into a morning and afternoon session. The meeting was chaired by the Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary, Kelly Schulz, and hosted by MMIC Executive Director, Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director for the Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA). OMFA continues to provide direct support and coordinate all actions associated with the MMIC.

December Meeting

Secretary Schulz provided welcome comments, and presented a detailed review of COVID-19 impacts, as well as Maryland's state government response, restrictions, and business relief efforts. Secretary Robert McCord, Maryland Department of Planning, provided welcome remarks for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

In both the morning and afternoon sessions, the installation and garrison commanders, or designated representatives, informed the MMIC of local, state and federal issues impacting their installations and associated defense communities, and reviewed significant upcoming events at their installations. The seven military alliance presidents, or designated representatives, provided updates of their alliance activities and engagement with the respective installations and defense communities. An update on the Statewide Compatible Use Implementation program was presented at both sessions.

Morning session (10:00 am – 12:20 pm):

- Maryland National Guard: BG Adam Flasch, Joint Staff Director, MD National Guard
- Aberdeen Proving Ground: COL Timothy Druell, Garrison Commander
- Fort Detrick: COL Dexter Nunnally, Garrison Commander
- Fort Meade: COL Christopher Nyland, Garrison Commander
- Army Corps of Engineers: COL John Litz, Commander Baltimore District
- Joint Base Andrews: Col. Tyler Schaff, 316th and Installation Commander
- Statewide Compatible Use Implementation Update: Jennifer Chiasson, Grants Manager, Office of Military & Federal Affairs, MD Department of Commerce, and Joseph Griffiths, Local Assistance & Training Manager, MD Department of Planning

- Fort Detrick Alliance: Jennifer Staiger, President
- Andrews Business & Community Alliance: James Estepp, Director
- Fort Meade Alliance: Doreen Harwood, President
- Army Alliance (Aberdeen): Glenn Gillis, Vice President

Afternoon session (2:00 pm – 3:45 pm):

- Coast Guard Yard: CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commander
- Patuxent Naval Air Station: CAPT John Brabazon, Commander
- Naval Support Activity Annapolis: Mr. Brian Kelm, Deputy Commander
- Naval Support Activity Bethesda: CAPT Mary Seymour, Commander
- Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock: Dr. David Drazen, Chief Technology Officer
- Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head: CAPT Todd Copeland, Commander, NSA South Potomac
- Statewide Compatible Use Implementation Update: Jennifer Chiasson, Grants Manager, Office of Military & Federal Affairs, MD Department of Commerce, and Joseph Griffiths, Local Assistance & Training Manager, MD Department of Planning
- Maritime Technology Alliance: Ivan Caplan, President
- Military Alliance Council: Pam Frank, Executive Director
- Southern Maryland Naval Alliance: Gary Kessler, President

Findings and Recommendations

As in previous years it is clear that Maryland must remain vigilant in the face of defense budget instability, and potential BRAC activity or mission relocation. Preparation and engagement from all Maryland stakeholders is necessary to avoiding losing hard-fought gains. 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, and the associated regional economic impacts. Common themes from the commanders and alliance presidents included:

- All installations, with support from the alliances and surrounding defense communities are executing their missions, despite COVID-19 pandemic impacts.
- COVID-19 virus mitigation measures are effective on Maryland military installations with few exceptions. Almost all positive tests are traced to community or family exposure and transmission.
- Child care capacity is a problem both on the installations and in the surrounding communities. This issue will likely worsen as an increasing percentage of the workforce returns from working remotely.
- Financial support of our military alliances, and continued engagement with our federal partners, are both essential to maintaining the estimated \$60 billion economic impact of our Maryland military installations.

The minutes of the December 7th meeting are attached as an enclosure.

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL
Monday, December 7, 2020; 1000–1220 and 1400-1545
MS Teams Live Event (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes

The December MMIC meeting was conducted in two sessions, using the Microsoft Teams Live Event platform. The morning session included updates from the Army and Air Force installations and their corresponding alliances, plus the Maryland National Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers. The afternoon session included updates from the Navy installations and Coast Guard Yard, plus their corresponding alliances.

AM SESSION

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs provided opening remarks and a review of the agenda. Ms. Swoboda acknowledged the unique circumstances that caused this to be the first virtual MMIC meeting, as well as the difficulty in synchronizing the MS Teams live event platform across multiple Services and private sector participants. She also recognized the significance of December 7th as the 79th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack in WWII.

As this was the first MMIC meeting of the 2020 calendar year (a previously scheduled meeting in April of 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic), Ms. Swoboda recognized the new Council members that have since joined, to include former Maryland State Senator Steve Waugh, and former State Delegate Mary Dulaney James (both appointees of the State Senate President). She then recognized the new base/installation leadership, to include Naval Support Activity South Potomac Commander Captain Todd Copeland, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division Commander Captain Todd Hutchinson, Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commander Captain John Brabazon, Fort George G. Meade Commander Colonel Chris Nyland, and Joint Base Andrews Commander Colonel Tyler Schaff. Garrison/base commanders serve as Ex-officio members of the Council.

Ms. Swoboda then welcomed the MMIC Chair, Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz, and MMIC member and Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Robert McCord to the floor for welcoming remarks.

Secretary Schulz

- Reviewed the impact of COVID-19 in Maryland. Reiterated the Governor's restrictions, the need to curb the surge, and therefore the necessity of business restrictions.
- Noted that child care capacity is problematic not just on installations, but across the state.
- Noted that Maryland Department of Labor can assist in the issue of military spouse employment.
- Noted the Maryland economy is recovering faster than most states, with 10,000 new jobs in October, and recovery of 200,000+ jobs over the past six months.

- \$250M Cares Act funding has been distributed as business relief, with an additional \$250M in state funding. Specific grant programs were directed at restaurants and manufacturing, with focus on emergency production of PPE.
- The Governor and Department of Commerce continue to focus on setting conditions for stimulus and growth, and recently announced a set of “Future 20” entrepreneur and startup companies.

Secretary McCord

- Provided welcome comments, and noted that the ship’s bell from the USS Maryland, which was docked at Pearl Harbor 79 years ago, is now located at the State House in Annapolis.
- The Secretary also mentioned the important role that his department plays in sustaining the USCGC Taney, the U.S. Coast Guard High Endurance Cutter notable as the last floating warship that fought in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Installation Commander Updates

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

- COVID restrictions are having an impact on training.
- The fiscal requirements for COVID response have limited funding for discretionary programs. Among other cutbacks, the MDNG has suspended the Maryland Youth Challenge Academy classes.
- MDNG continues to focus on their priority lines of effort and remains mission-ready.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Timothy Druell, Garrison Commander

- The APG Emergency Operations Center has been active since 10 March.
- A majority of the workforce has been teleworking since 14 March. Currently only about 40% of the workforce is on-post.
- The installation is currently in Health Protection Level (HPL) Phase 2 “B.” The focus is on reopening safely, with no prescribed timeline.
- COVID-19 mitigation measures are working. Virus transmission on-post is practically negligible, with nearly all identified cases resulting from family or community exposure.

Fort Detrick – COL Dexter Nunnally, Garrison Commander

- Focus is on three priorities: Protect the Force; Mission Support; and COVID-19 Compliance.
- Lessons learned:
 - Cleaning teams work
 - Need a comprehensive communications plan to ensure transparency with tenants
 - Need a “whole of installation” response, involving all tenant organizations
 - Relationships matter
- Mission impacts have included many modified services to tenant organizations, workforce and residents.
- Same childcare challenges as at other installations. Military have priority. Therefore the civilian workforce must go off-post, where there is limited capacity.
- Expect a new normal going forward. Some of the COVID-19 response measures may be retained, e.g., more people working from home.
- Concerns/challenges: COVID fatigue; changing state and county restrictive measures.

Fort Meade – COL Chris Nyland, Garrison Commander

- Fort Meade Garrison has stayed in lock-step with the Ann Arundel and Howard County executives.
- Contact tracing indicated that less than 5% of COVID transmission happens on-post. The vast majority is transmission in family and community.
- Fort Meade is growing. The working population is currently at approximately 62,000, with over 4000 new positions programmed for the installations tenants. Several tenant organizations will also move 10,000 employees from off-post to on-post over the next few years.
- Considering the nature of the mission, most Fort Meade employees cannot telework. Therefore FGGM must accommodate this growth.
- On-post childcare is operating at 50% capacity, with 2 of 4 facilities open. Even after the COVID crisis, childcare will continue to be a critical problem, with only 50% capacity for the installation workforce, which will also impact spousal employment.

Army Corps of Engineers – COL John Litz, Commander Baltimore District

- The nature of the ACOE mission limits telework, and requires at least 50% of workforce on jobsites.
- There is concern about virtual on-boarding of new employees, coupled with work at home when possible, which will have some longer-term impact on workforce culture.
- Expect many government organizations to divest some or most of their physical workspace.
- Maryland Army installation projects: After years of post-BRAC investment, expect much of the APG work to wind down this year. On the other hand, lots of work on FGGM with East Campus and other projects. Significant Ft. Detrick projects include new incinerator and commissioning of Biosafety Level 3 and 4 laboratories.
- The Bureau of Engraving & Printing relocation project, Currency Production, in Beltsville will be on the order of \$100M design, and \$1B to build.
- ACOE is hosting a virtual briefing on upcoming opportunities, scheduled for 16 Dec.

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

- Echoed the COVID impacts and concerns of the Army installations.
- Otherwise, mission is going well on JBA.
- Provided 1500 medics for COVID-19 community assistance. There is an insatiable demand for testing.

Statewide Compatible Use Implementation Update

Jennifer Chiasson, Grants Program Manager, Office of Military & Federal Affairs, MD Dept. of Commerce
Joseph Griffiths, Local Assistance & Training Manager, MD Dept. of Planning

Ms. Chiasson and Mr. Griffiths presented an update for MMIC members on the Statewide Compatible Use Implementation program, which is enabled by DOD Office of Economic Adjustment grant of \$1.7M, for 18 months, from 6/1/20 – 11/30/21, and will support a Compatible Use Community Liaison position in the MD Department of Planning. The objective is to address compatibility issues at a state level, thereby supporting civilian and community development compatible with long-term military installation missions. Focus areas include: Communication/Coordination; Land Use Technical Assistance; Renewable

Energy Siting Guidance; and Legislative Tools. Mr. Griffiths solicited MMIC member participation in a Statewide Joint Land Use Response Implementation Strategy (SJRIIS) workgroup, a steering committee for a renewable energy compatible siting project, and a compatible use policy committee.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Fort Detrick Alliance – Jen Staiger, President

- The Fort Detrick Alliance has pivoted to virtual events, with focus on COVID impacts and local updates for members.
- The Alliance conducted the annual Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI) Showcase as a hybrid event with some members attending in person, and others virtually. BG Michael Talley, the USAMRDC Commander, was the keynote speaker.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance – James Estepp, Director

- Recognized new leadership at Joint Base Andrews with the arrival of Col. Schaff.
- Maintains great relationship with congressional delegation, which has helped on several issues.
- The alliance has also engaged Prince Georges County on several issues.

Fort Meade Alliance – Doreen Harwood, President

- The FMA has focused on three priorities throughout the COVID crisis:
 - Stay aligned with Ft. Meade installation priorities
 - Keep moving forward with the \$3.6M Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center renovation project and complementary kiosk system
 - Maintain FMA membership, at an all-time high of 272, which enables the alliance' various education and community support programs
- In lieu of the annual holiday social, the FMA has donated \$10k to the FGGM wellness program. They also have donated PPE for COVID response, and \$6k in school supplies.
- The FMA has hosted five webinars on COVID impact with DISA, CYBERCOM and NSA.
- They have also recently transitioned the in-person Tech Mania program to a series of on-line offerings to 9th graders throughout the region.

Army Alliance – Glenn Gillis, Vice President

- The Army Alliance has developed and distributed a publication entitled “Alphabet Suit” to assist companies in doing business with APG and its tenant organizations.
- The Alliance helped organize and execute a virtual welcome tour for county and new APG senior leader spouses.
- Work continues on the Alliance legislative priorities. Focus areas include:
 - Continued funding for the Army Facilities Reduction Program
 - Workforce recruitment
 - Adequate MILCON and environmental remediation funding
 - Relaxation of state tax on military retirement income
 - Relief from outdated Chemical Stockpile Demilitarization legislative restrictions, which now prevent necessary research on new destruction technologies

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for their participation, encouraged follow-up questions, and adjourned the AM Session at 12:20 pm.

PM SESSION

Welcome and Introductions

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Installation Commander Updates

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commander

- The COVID-19 virus has been manageable. With some adjustment to a three-shift schedule, the Yard is at full production, with greater than 75% of the workforce on-site.
- The Icebreaking Tugboat SLEP (Service Life Extension Project) is nearing program end, which will be marked by a completion ceremony.

Patuxent Naval Air Station – CAPT John Brabazon, Commander

- NAS Pax has recently completed a road maintenance IGSA (Intergovernmental Support Agreement) with St. Mary's County, the first in the Navy to reach \$2M.
- Currently 59 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) projects, protecting 12,000 acres.

- The Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) project at SMC Gate 2 is in progress.

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – Mr. Brian Kelm, Deputy Commander

- COVID-19 has not had a significant impact. Most new cases come from community exposure, with little or no transmission on the installation.
- Zoe Johnson, NAS Annapolis staff, discussed the elements of a comprehensive plan to respond to sea level rise, addressing land subsidence, sea level rise, ground water and coastal flooding. Also related is the Military Installation Resilience Review.
- Noted civilian encroachment at Greenbury Point is a matter of concern.
- Expect the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to occupy the old NEX/DECA building.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Mary Seymour, Commander

- Most on-post renovations continued through the COVID crisis; expect construction to continue through 2027.
- With the medical mission at NSA Bethesda, there is extra emphasis on COVID containment measures.
- NSA Bethesda maintains a good partnership with Montgomery County, with an IGSA for traffic signal maintenance, and great support from Montgomery County police during recent VIP (POTUS) visit.
- The Main Gate has been moved from Gate 2 to Gate 1.
- A new drive-up pharmacy has opened toward the front of the installation, close to the Main Gate.
- There have been many issues with child care capacity since March. A new measure is shared-slot registrations at child care facilities, with 45 slots open for school age children.

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

- NSWC continues to execute the mission with minimal impact from the COVID virus.
- Expect to be funded at \$750M in coming year.
- STEM activity continues virtually, with no in-person activity.
- The Capitol Tech Bridge program has been established and administered by Carderock.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – CAPT Todd Copeland, Command of NSA South Potomac

- Considering recent changes and investments at NSWC Indian Head, leadership is trying to envision what it will look like in 2040.
- The new Main Gate projects are recently completed.
- REPI projects total \$1.3M
- Most of the 4,000 employees live in the local community. In compliance with Navy guidance, NSWC Indian Head is at HP Con “C,” which has a huge impact on the small town of Indian Head.
- NSWC Indian Head is working on a \$6M environmental clean-up effort.

Statewide Compatible Use Implementation Update

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Military Alliance President Remarks

Maritime Technology Alliance – Ivan Caplan, President

- COVID Impact:
 - Carderock workforce is almost 80% telework
 - Coast Guard Yard went to three shifts to minimize personal contact and maintain full work capacity
- National Capital Tech Bridge – a collaboration among government labs, industry and academia for more rapid technology transfer and technology support to additive and advanced manufacturing.
- Coast Guard Yard expects a \$21M contract to expand capacity to service and overhaul larger ships, which will keep that work in Maryland.
- The MTA has set up a pilot program to have 20-20 Gene Systems perform COVID-19 testing with MITAGS (Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies).

Military Alliance Council – Pam Frank, Executive Director

- COVID impact: with NSWC Indian Head at Health Protection Con “C” as of 20 Nov, all quality of life facilities are closed. Active duty are prohibited from dine-in restaurants, and non-essential visitors are prohibited. The on-base workforce is about 20%.
- The U.S. Bomb Technicians Association (USBTA) will relocate from Colorado to NSWC Indian Head, locating across from the Velocity Center. Two additional companies are planning to relocate in same vicinity.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance – Gary Kessler, President

- SMNA focus areas for FY21:
 - Mitigate impacts of COVID-19
 - Utility privatization
 - Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP) efforts
 - Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) candidates
 - Introduce 5G technology at NAS Pax
 - Connectivity to Tech Bridge, Airport and UAS activity
 - Workforce initiatives
 - New mission space and LRP authority

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for their participation, encouraged follow-up questions, and adjourned the PM Session at 3:45 pm.