

**Minutes**  
**January 22, 2020**  
**Executive Committee**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force convened on January 22, 2020, at 10:00 AM at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, 930 Richland Street, Columbia.

A notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The following people were in attendance: William L. Bethea, Jr. (Chairman), Charlie Farrell (Executive Coordinator), Dan Beatty (Vice Chairman), Steve Creech (Sumter), MG Van McCarty, Haidee Stith (Director of Communications), and Sandy Claypoole (Program Manager), Tom Robillard (MOAA) and MG (Ret) Scott Zobrist. Mary Graham and Jim Wegmann participated by phone.

Bill Bethea called the meeting to order.

**Reports from Communities**

**Jim Wegmann – Beaufort**

The Military Enhancement Committee (MEC) is working on a new charter to include all regions. It would go from a committee of 7 to roughly 9. In addition to Beaufort, there would be a possible expansion to Jasper and Colleton counties due to active duty members residing in those counties who work at the 3 bases.

**Dan Beatty – Columbia**

BG Beagle will stay at Fort Jackson for another year. A small new unit from Fort Bragg (approximately 25 people) working in Civil Affairs will move to Fort Jackson in April. General Ham of AUSA will be at Fort Jackson January 29<sup>th</sup>. They are making a 10-episode documentary at Fort Jackson of the 10 weeks of basic training. New PT will take effect late this year. Fort Gordon is expanding 3000 people a year for the next 3 years.

**Steve Creech – Sumter**

The Wing Command and AFCENT will have a change of command in May. One squadron is deployed to Prince Sultan Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia. 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force will pick up more wings and all new housing. There will be an air show with the Thunderbirds in May to honor the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gulf War. Shaw has 2 MQ9 squadrons (remotely piloted aircraft).

## **MG Van McCarty – National Guard**

The National Guard received \$15M from SC for a cyber readiness center in conjunction with USC Aiken. They also received \$15M in matching federal funds. This is an opportunity for academia and the military to work together to combat cyber attacks. The Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative with Savannah River Site, a \$50M state and federally funded facility, will also be at USC Aiken. The 75<sup>th</sup> commemorative of the Battle of the Bulge was at the Military Museum. Over 20 WWII veterans were there and signed autographs. The Greenwood armory has re-opened. Greenville, Lancaster, Florence Sumter and Easley armories are now being renovated. The Readiness Center will be built on Joint Base Charleston. It will allow a sizeable number of personnel and equipment to stay on the coast for a quicker response time in the event of a disaster.

## **Mary Graham - Charleston**

There will be a charter signed with the Chamber and Joint Base Charleston next week pledging to work on Public Private Partnerships. The Chamber will also have a reception on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the night before the Commandant of the Coast Guard gives his State of the Coast Guard address in Charleston. April 18 – 19 the Blue Angels will have an air show at Joint Base Charleston. Mary has been appointed for another 4 years as an Air Force Civic Leader.

Bill Bethea gave a brief on legislative initiatives. We're getting some resistance from Labor, Licensing and Regulation on credentialing. Compacts will help streamline the process. We are trying to get a hearing in the Senate on the military retirement exemption.

Tom Robillard shared that MOAA is working to connect states by virtual conference calls in order to have everyone on the same page. He is also meeting with legislators to promote the MBTF legislative initiatives.

MG (Ret) Scott Zobrist is working with the Department of the Army as a Senior Mentor at Fort Leavenworth and in Community Relations at Shaw.

Fred Monk discussed a retreat Commerce is having with regional workforce advisors. Economic development success requires qualified workers. The transition of people from the military is a great source.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Claypoole