

Minutes

October 18, 2017

Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force convened on October 18, 2017, at 1:00 PM at the USC Alumni Center, 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 (Columbia), Steve Creech (Sumter), MG Robert Livingston, Jr. (Adjutant General SCNG), Jim Wegmann (Beaufort), Fred Monk, Haidee Stith, and Sandy Claypoole (Program Manager).

The following guests were in attendance: Paul Friday (Deputy Asst Chief of Staff Marine Corps Installations East) and Bill Meier (Asst Chief of Staff Marine Corps Installations East).

Bill Bethea called the meeting to order. There were no members of the press in attendance.

The Attorney General's office is working with the State Bar Association to provide pro bono legal assistance to active duty, reservist, National Guard, veterans, etc. The first day will be in Rock Hill on November 12th. The next location will be in Florence. Attorney General Wilson put paid staff in charge of the program.

Reports from Communities:

Bill Bethea, Charleston

Senator Lindsey Graham was presented the Palmetto Patriot award last week in Charleston.

Dan Beatty, Columbia

81st RSC, General Deblick, is going to Korea to be the Deputy Command General there. He will receive any reserve forces from the US going to Korea. It is unknown who will take over the 81st RSC. These three big things are happening at Fort Jackson:

The 12th battalion is moving out to provide room for the growth of trainees.

The Christmas exodus is coming up in December. There will be approximately 6-7000 soldiers leaving for the holidays.

Fort Jackson is also trying to support the National Guard troops as they deploy.

Steve Creech, Sumter

Big deployment coming up in a few weeks. Reaper pilots coming. Three workers at Shaw went out to a church built in 1823 and painted satanic symbols on the building.

MG Robert Livingston, National Guard

The National Guard has retained one of four attack aviation battalions. That battalion along with Chinooks are in Afghanistan now. The Guard is in over 30 countries at this point. Deployment is now at once every three years versus the plan of once every five year. We're going through a renewal of readiness for some early deploying units. We have a visit from General Goldstein coming up on the 27th along with Senator Graham to look at McEntire. McEntire was not included in the next round of F-35s, even though it was the number one base last time. Vermont ended up getting the F-35s instead. In the first round, McEntire was the best in the nation, but in the second round they were not. The Air Force wants Shaw and McEntire to be in step with each other as far as divergence of aircraft. Our F-16 wing just got back from Korea less than a year ago. Unemployment rate has dropped for traditional guardsmen to below 2%. Wellness centers continue to open around the state and are offering service to all veterans, not just National Guard. There is a move from passing the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) to concentrating on total soldier, airman and family wellness. If the trend in the fail rate continues, the Guard will lead the nation in physical fitness in less than a year.

Bill asked if the possibilities of wind turbines off the coast would create any diminishment of range opportunities along the coast. Steve said as far as McEntire and Shaw are concerned, probably not. Bill Meier and Paul Friday explained that NC put a moratorium in place to prevent wind energy from interfering with military bases.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Claypoole

