



South Carolina Military Base Task Force: Enhancing South Carolina's Military Value



Strategic Plan of the Military Base Task Force, 2017





HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

July 12, 2017

Dear Friends,

We cherish our military in South Carolina. The men and women of the armed services represent the very best of America, and we are proud and honored to host so many of them in our state.

The military has a \$24.1 billion economic impact on South Carolina. We are home to eight major military installations and many other critical defense facilities, supporting a total of 62,250 Department of Defense personnel. 417,000 veterans and 57,000 military retirees call the Palmetto State home, and I am committed to maintaining strong relationships between government and military communities.

That's why I support the South Carolina Military Base Task Force and its critical undertaking: making recommendations related to military personnel, the current defense climate and challenges facing our state's military installations.

"South Carolina Military Base Task Force: Enhancing South Carolina's Military Value" sets forth the Task Force's goals for our state and the actions it recommends to achieve them. I wholeheartedly support this strategic plan and will work closely with the Task Force and the General Assembly to ensure its implementation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

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Left: Nuclear Power School Training in Charleston;
Right: F-16 at Shaw AFB. Cover: Ft. Jackson trainees,
F-16 at Shaw AFB, US Coast Guard, F-35Bs and US
Marines in Beaufort, C-17 in Charleston.

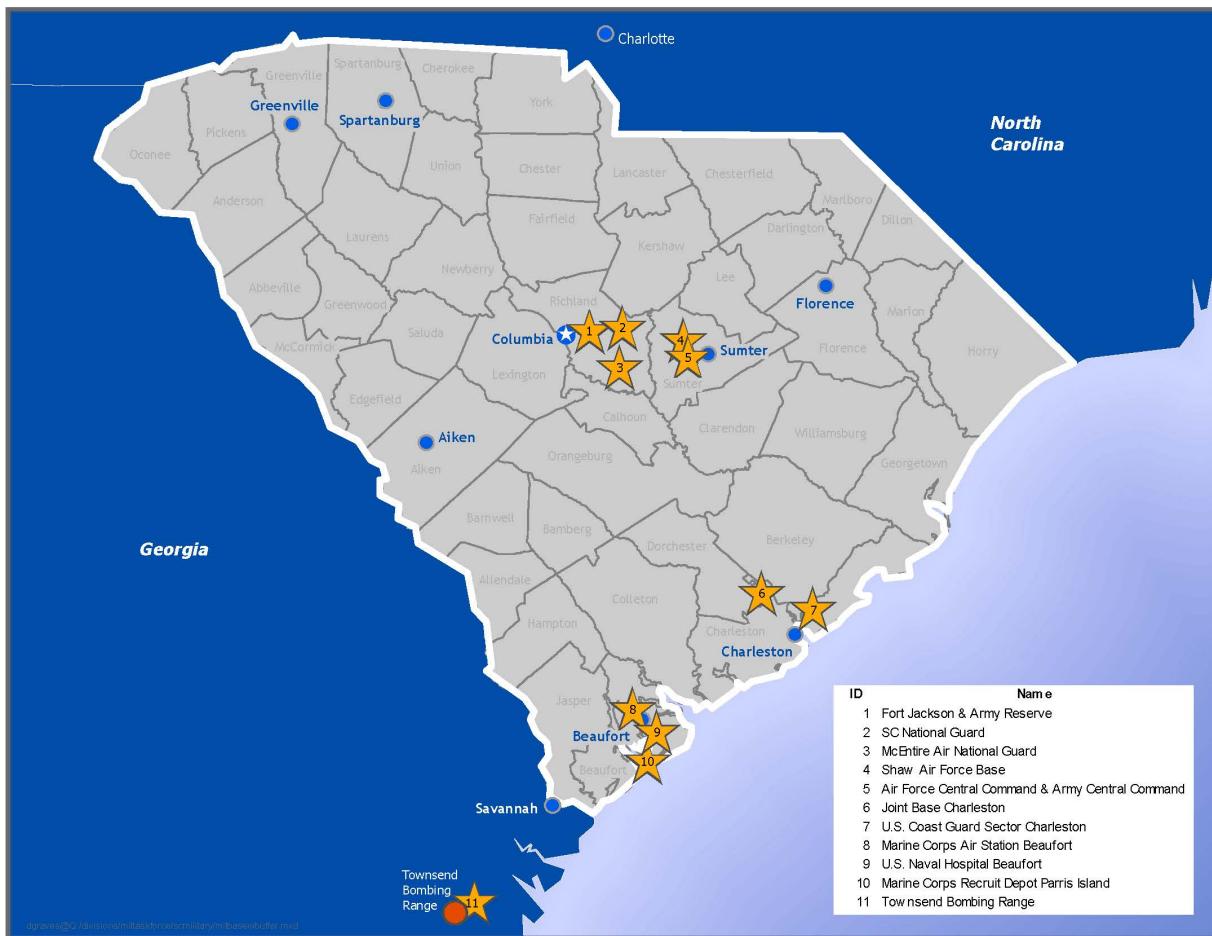
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INTRODUCTION

South Carolina has cherished and venerated the military's presence since the American Revolution. Our strategic location and willing readiness of our population to serve in our nation's defense contribute to the environment that values the importance of South Carolina's military community.



South Carolina's military installations are integral to the fabric of each community in which they are located. Between the military and local governments, active duty and civilian work force, private and public sectors, there is a familial relationship. South Carolinians are patriotic flag wavers so when it comes to supporting our military forces, veterans, families, and retirees we *do it big*. We value the importance of our installations to the nation's defense, safety, and security of our citizens. We also recognize our military partners as vital contributors to South Carolina's economy.

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South Carolina's commitment to supporting our military is evident nationally. For example, the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) recognized the Charleston Region as one of eight Great American Defense Communities in 2017. The Base Commander of Joint Base Charleston also received the ADC Military Leadership Award. Charleston's family support during deployment, housing, education, job opportunities, and appreciation of the military presence is exemplary but not unique in our state.



F-35s fly over Beaufort SC

Building and maintaining strong relationships between the federal, state and local governments and our military installations is the prime objective of the **South Carolina Military Base Task Force (MBTF)**. We exist to develop, synchronize and execute a statewide strategy for protecting and growing military assets while creating awareness and support of the value of military facilities, service members, veterans, retirees, and families. We are advocates for the resources they require, the missions they undertake, and the people who are serving and who have served.

Since 2013 the MBTF has been tasked to identify and understand issues relating to the current defense climate and challenges facing our state's military installations, communities and personnel. By authority of the Governor, the MBTF is empowered to execute those strategies that will support military installations and their related communities.¹

PLANNING PROCESS



SPAWAR's 5th Annual Cyber Defense Competition

USMC (retired) and Col Warren Parker, USMC (retired), both residents of South Carolina. Second, Haidee Stith of On Point Services LLC met with each military installation command and

The purpose of our strategic plan is to identify opportunities that we can act upon through advocacy, administrative actions, legislation, and innovation. The recommendations in this report provide a road map for the MBTF and our state's leaders to advance strategies that validate our long-term commitment to enhance and preserve our military assets.

Development of the plan was accomplished through two phases between July 2016 and June 2017. First, members of the MBTF executive committee and other key individuals met to identify goals and objectives. The retreat was led by 3Star Strategic Planning's LtGen Jack Klimp

¹ For more information on South Carolina bases, visit www.scmilitarybases.com.

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community leaders to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The result is a plan that combines the consensus of opinions from both exercises, with strategic recommendations that are achievable through local, state or federal actions. This plan will always be a work in progress that we will continually assess and update.

IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE MILITARY

South Carolina's military community provides critical strategic value to our nation's defense. All five services have a significant presence in our state, leading to synergy and mission support. Our location on the East Coast is advantageous for deployment to the Middle East, South and Central America, Africa, and Europe, as well as to Military Operating Areas (MOAs) offshore. Each base supports multiple defense missions that contribute to defense readiness, training and homeland security.

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON



Joint Base Charleston is “the launch point for the nation’s resolve,”² providing airlift, sealift, prepositioning, and strategic logistics missions throughout the world. Joint Base Charleston is home to more than 60 Department of Defense and federal agencies. The installation supports 90,000 airmen, sailors, Marines, soldiers, Coast Guardsmen, civilians, dependents, and retirees. From the Navy’s Nuclear Power training, SPAWAR’s information warfare technology, and the 628th Air Base Wing providing expeditionary airmen to combatant commanders, the defense assets in Charleston are integral components in our nation’s efforts to secure America and promote global freedom.

Charleston AFB includes the 628th Air Base Wing, host of the installation, two operational groups, 13 squadrons supporting 52 C-17A Globemaster aircraft, Air Force Reserve, and a Wing Staff Directorate. The Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek includes a diverse synergy of tenants, notably the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Atlantic (SPAWAR), Navy Nuclear Power School, US Army’s 841st Transportation Battalion, Naval Brig, and the Naval Munitions Command Unit.

The footprint of Joint Base Charleston encompasses some of our nation’s most unique military assets. The 23,000 acres include 22 miles of waterfront with 4 deep-water piers, two Navy Nuclear Training Submarines, the only unencumbered explosive arcs in the continental US, and 1600 buildings (42 million square feet under roof) with 269 bunkers that hold up to 60 million pounds of conventional ordnance. Joint Base Charleston also has 2,400 acres at

North Auxiliary Airfield, an offsite training facility located in Orangeburg County, South Carolina.

² Remarks of Col. Rob Lyman, USAF, Commander, 628th Air Base Wing and Joint Base Charleston, Governor’s Military Commanders Meeting, 12/2/16.

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COAST GUARD SECTOR CHARLESTON



The Coast Guard serves as Captain of the Port of Charleston, providing security and safety for commercial traffic and the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. For the Ports, Coast Guard Sector Charleston screened 2,311 foreign cargo vessels for safety, examined 230 foreign vessels, monitored over 100 cruise ship arrivals and 400,000 passengers, and conducted 1,400 Law Enforcement boardings in 2016.

FORT JACKSON



Fort Jackson is the largest and most active Initial Entry Training Center for the Army, annually training over 50,000 soldiers and providing 5,000 soldiers Advanced Individual Training. Fifty-four percent of the Army's Basic Combat Training is completed at Fort Jackson as well as sixty-one percent of all women entering the Army. Fort Jackson is also home to the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute, the Armed Forces Army Chaplaincy Center and School, the National Center for Credibility Assessment (formerly the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute), and the Drill Sergeant Academy. Weekly graduations attract approximately 5,000 visitors to Columbia.

ARMY RESERVE



The 81st Regional Support Command, headquartered at Fort Jackson, supports Army Reserve soldiers, civilians, and families across nine states and Puerto Rico. Army Reserve forces provide most of the Army's medical, logistical, transportation, engineering, civil, and legal affairs services. There are over 4,500 Army Reservists in South Carolina.

AIR FORCE RESERVE



The 315th Airlift Wing (315 AW) is headquartered at Joint Base Charleston. Integrated with the 437th Airlift Wing of the Air Mobility Command, the Wing's three functional areas and nineteen subordinate units support 2,500 Reservists, global operations, logistics, support, and aeromedical evacuation.

SC NATIONAL GUARD



The South Carolina Military Department consists of the SC Army National Guard, comprised of approximately 10,000 Soldiers, and the SC Air National Guard (SCANG), comprised of approximately 1,200 personnel. The Adjutant General for South Carolina, MG Robert E. Livingston, Jr., leads the SC Military Department. The Governor serves as the Commander-in-Chief.

More than 58 armories across the state contain over 2 million square feet of space. The force structure is tied to the strategic defense of the nation, and includes the 263rd

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Army Air Missile Defense Command that defends the National Capital Region. McEntire Joint National Guard Base is home to the 169th Fighter Wing and the 59th Aviation Troop Command.

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE



Shaw AFB is one of the Air Force's most modern bases with the operational advantage of dual, parallel runways. Located in Sumter, the base's strategic proximity to North Africa and Europe ensures rapid deployment. Shaw's squadrons consistently are the first deployed in Middle East conflicts. The US Air Force's largest F-16 combat wing, the 20th Fighter Wing, comprised of 79 jets, resides at Shaw AFB. It is also home to the Ninth Air Force and two defense headquarters: the US Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT) and US Army Central Command (ARCENT). Both AFCENT and ARCENT are components of the US Central Command (USCENTCOM) and together represent America's air and land force logistical and warfighting headquarters for the Middle East and Southwest Asia regions.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT



Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort trains to deploy without deploying to train. The air station is the second highest tasked aviation unit in the Marine Corps, and projected to increase over time to 106,000 operations per year. MCAS hosts the only USMC F-18 squadrons and is the sole training installation for training F-35B pilots, including US and foreign squadrons. The F-35 is the nation's most advanced aviation war fighting aircraft.

MCAS Beaufort supports operations for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, attached II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) unit, and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (MCRD PI). The air station is home to Marine Aircraft Group 31, which is comprised of six F-18 squadrons that constantly deploy to support training and combat operations. MAG-31 houses an F-35B training squadron, VMFAT-501.

MCAS Beaufort's strategic location is critical for training and deployment. The irreplaceable assets of ranges, Military Operating Areas (MOAs) and airspace are exceptional, easily accessed and include 52,000 square miles over water. MCAS operates the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in nearby coastal Georgia, which is expanding by over 30,000 acres to become the nation's premier training range.

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND



The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island "Makes Marines." The installation is home to two commands: the Training and Education Command and the Recruiting Command. The transformation from civilian to Marine is intangible but accomplished by the core values and discipline instilled during the 12-week basic training that culminates in the legendary Crucible. In 2016, 17,000 recruits entered training at MCRD Parris Island and 19,000 are projected

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for 2017. MCRD Parris Island trains 49% of the males and 100% of the females entering the Marine Corps. Foreign military also train at Parris Island.

UNITED STATES NAVAL HOSPITAL BEAUFORT



The Naval Hospital (NH) has 1,000 personnel. It is one of a few US Naval health facilities with a base (127 acres) and housing “on board”. The hospital’s mission is to keep the Navy and Marine Corps family ready, healthy and on the job. It manages Parris Island’s new Physical Therapy/Sports Rehabilitation Clinic, and a health clinic at MCAS Beaufort. The NH works closely with the VA hospital in Charleston to provide a number of specialty clinics at NH while it serves retirees, veterans, and active duty personnel and their families, totaling approximately 35,000 beneficiaries. The hospital participates in Force Protection’s annual “Citadel Shield” anti terrorism exercises.

ECONOMIC IMPACT³

South Carolina’s military installations generate \$24.1 billion in annual economic activity, and support 181,847 jobs and \$9.9 billion in labor income. This translates to \$884.1 million in annual tax revenue, or 8.4 percent of the state’s economy. This study is posted on the MBTF website, <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

South Carolina military installations’ economic impact			
Community	Annual Economic Impact	Number of Jobs	Labor Income
Charleston	\$10.8 Billion	67,108	\$4.3 Billion
Midlands	\$4.1 Billion	36,343	\$1.7 Billion
Sumter	\$2.5 Billion	16,397	\$1.1 Billion
Beaufort	\$2.3 Billion	19,240	\$993.8 Million

Our state has the nation’s 10th highest number of Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and the 9th highest number of military retirees. Installations include Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Joint Base Charleston, U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Naval Hospital Beaufort, and McEntire Joint Base. Statewide, the military community includes the SC National Guard, the Army and Air Force Reserve of South Carolina, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Savannah River Site.



Trainees at Fort Jackson

³ The “Economic Impact of South Carolina’s Military Community 2017”.

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The military community generates one out of every 12 jobs in South Carolina. DoD payrolls of \$2.6 billion per year support more than 62,520 active duty, reserve, and civilian employees. The South Carolina military population of 417,515 veterans and 56,969 military retirees brings in \$3.5 billion in DoD retirement income, VA compensation, and pension funding.

There are over 750 defense contractors located within South Carolina. These contractors support military installations located inside and outside South Carolina, executing \$2.1 billion in defense contracts within the state.



Airmen at Shaw AFB prepare to deploy to Middle East

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THE SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY BASE TASK FORCE

Established by Executive Order of the Governor, the SC Military Base Task Force (MBTF) includes top-level representation from local governments, chambers of commerce, retired military, the SC National Guard, and the SC Legislature. The MBTF is tasked “to advise the Governor and General Assembly on various military matters that affect the state.” The Chairman, Executive Coordinator, and Program Manager staff the MBTF, coordinating activities between the services, installation communities, and the state. In addition to regular meetings, the MBTF hosts an annual Base Commanders’ Briefing to the Governor.

“South Carolina will remain the nation’s best value for military facilities, service members, veterans, retirees, and their families.”

MBTF Vision



With the support and encouragement of the MBTF, important legislation to support the military has been passed, the economic value of the military presence has been measured and a new website, <https://www.scmilitarybases.com>, is on line. The website contains a comprehensive list of legislation passed. South Carolina now offers a partial tax exemption for military retirement income and has enacted other quality of life legislation. In 2016 the Governor assigned the MBTF an additional leadership role for the Veterans Policy Advisory

Committee (VPAC) that will evaluate options to improve veterans and military retiree support services.

Above: MRAP at Joint Base Charleston.

Below: Graduation at Navy Nuclear Power School.



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THE PLAN

The purpose of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force (MBTF) is to:

"Develop, synchronize and execute a statewide strategy for protecting and growing military assets while creating awareness and support of the value of military facilities, service members, veterans, retirees, and their families."

Intent of this Strategic Plan

- *Enhance the economic vitality of our host communities.*
- *Demonstrate the strategic importance of each installation.*
- *Present objectives for the MBTF to achieve.*
- *Seize opportunities to increase our military's impact, reduce operational costs, remove encroachments, expand missions, and eliminate obstacles impeding quality of life for military personnel, retirees, veterans, and their families.*

OBJECTIVES

This strategic plan outlines four major objectives with strategic goals that the MBTF has authorized. The goals require actions by federal, state, or community jurisdictions. It is not possible for the MBTF to fulfill each goal, but it is possible for these goals to be achieved through collaboration with the military, communities, and state and federal leaders. To create favorable conditions for future basing decisions in South Carolina, the MBTF and host communities need to implement goals to support our military bases and missions.

Issues surrounding these goals are complex and may require further study to discern precisely what actions are appropriate for success. Issue briefs on various topics related to the goals are offered on the MBTF website. These can initiate the conversations between the MBTF, community, state, and federal leaders who all have a stake in South Carolina's military presence.



Objective 1: Establish a new operational structure for the SC Military Base Task Force.

An objective body is necessary to administer dedicated resources for defense communities, veterans and retiree support. The links between veterans/retirees and bases are inextricable because most services offered are located on the bases. Cross-cabinet support is necessary to coordinate initiatives to enhance installations and improve the military quality of life. Mitigating the concerns expressed by the military regarding operations and qualities of life will require actions by federal, state agencies, and local government collaboration. Many states, such as North Carolina, have instituted cabinet-level military departments to address these issues.



F-16s from McEntire Joint Guard Base

Goals

- 1) Evaluate models from other states to develop a structure consistent with MBTF objectives, missions and needs of the SC military community.**
- 2) Develop a budget consistent with implementation of this strategic plan.**
- 3) Consider the effectiveness of the services currently provided to veterans in the state and whether quality of that service can be improved through structural changes or other modifications, with the advice of the SC Veterans Policy Advisory Committee.**
- 4) Create and implement a strategic communications plan. This includes the new website, timely information dissemination, and social media. Create website links for military personnel that share quality of life, workplace, licensing, and other state and community data.**



Inside SPAWAR

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Objective 2: Protect and grow South Carolina's military assets

The military community represents \$24.1 billion economic impact and 181,847 jobs to South Carolina. Wages for military-supported jobs are 37 percent higher than the average wage in the state. The military sector consistently ranks among the largest sectors in South Carolina's economy—along with agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

To host communities, the presence of the military has an even higher impact. A military installation, whether it is a joint base such as Charleston or a National Guard armory in a rural community, brings jobs and people. The value of a base is as significant as a major manufacturer, and the loss of a base due to base closure or realignment, could devastate a local economy and send economic shock waves through the state.⁴

The state and local communities must be keenly aware of existing and potential encroachments to each of our installations. These include property development restrictions, noise impacts to residential areas, flight zones, and environmental impacts. The DoD considers many factors⁵ when evaluating an installation for compatible use and identification of encroachments. The state must understand these concerns and work to overcome any threats to military operations and mission impairment.



View of Naval Weapons Station, Charleston

as a major manufacturer, and the loss of a base due to base closure or realignment, could devastate a local economy and send economic shock waves through the state.⁴



Aerial View of Shaw Air Force Base

⁴ See MBTF Issue Brief on Base Realignment and Closure, www.scmilitarybases.com.

⁵ See MBTF Issue Brief on Encroachments, <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

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Goals

- 1) Support extending South Carolina's economic development incentives to projects that retain or expand missions and/or personnel.** Many states provide community grants or funding for eliminating encroachments, improving off or on-base infrastructure, and constructing/improving facilities.⁶
 - a) Pursue development of program guidelines for communities and installation support. Direct grants, bonds, tax credits, and property swaps all have relevant application to preserve and protect bases.
 - b) Collaborate with communities and land conservation groups to fund community grants to aid with costs of implementation, property acquisition, easements, and construction of assets to support missions. Apply for Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funding wherever possible.
 - c) Work with representatives from each branch of service when developing program guidelines to ensure that these projects meet DoD and service guidelines.
 - d) Utilize DoD, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) and other federal grant programs to fund public services: planning, infrastructure and land acquisition. State funds will be required to match many of these grants.



Gate at Fort Jackson

- 2) Identify each service's mission requirements and proactively create favorable conditions for future basing decisions in South Carolina.** The MBTF must join in advocating for new missions identified by the bases and DoD. See individual base recommendations for specific mission targets and strategies,
<http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.



New Gate at Parris Island Marine Recruit Depot

⁶ See MBTF Issue Brief on State Incentives for Military Installations and Communities at <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

⁷ DoD has specific guidelines on reporting public and private contributions to installations.

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- and waterfront.
- b) Urge communities to expeditiously approve Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS), Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ), and other studies to ensure prompt appropriation of DoD resources to expand and upgrade missions.
 - c) Support the establishment of land development agreements and partnerships with conservation organizations such as Sentinel Landscape, Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPASS), The Conservation Fund, Midlands Area Joint Installation Consortium, and the Beaufort County Open Land Trust.



Trainees at Fort Jackson

4) Improve installation security and base access.

- a) Encourage federal funding to improve gate configuration, which may require new locations at some installations. Property acquisition, SC Department of Transportation collaboration and local funding may be necessary.
- b) Encourage local community support of base improvements to perimeter security.
- c) Encourage stronger collaboration with local law enforcement.
- d) Encourage passage of legislation (S.109 and H.3265) restricting operation of drones near military bases or airports.

5) Encourage host communities to expand community partnerships and public/private initiatives.

Expansion of public infrastructure service opportunities can reduce base operation costs and yield revenue for local governments.

- a) Design community or private sector amenities to serve the needs of military families, especially where those facilities are limited on base.
- b) Facilitate locating county, state and other public services utilized by military families to on-base sites.
- c) Encourage public private partnerships, public-public and public-private partnerships (P4) where applicable.



Change of Command at MCAS Beaufort

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6) Implement REAL ID

South Carolina Governor McMaster signed REAL ID into law April 15, 2017. Prompt implementation of REAL ID is essential to insure continued ease of public access to installations.

Objective 3: Improve the quality of life for military families and retirees.

South Carolina has many opportunities to expand state support for the active duty military, retirees and their families. The quality of life for military families lightens the administrative load to enable the military to focus on its mission. Quality of life in military communities is a national issue confronting every base, and a significant factor considered by military personnel when faced with a choice in duty locations or where they choose to retire.



Soldiers loading a C-17 at Charleston AFB

Goals

- 1) **Mitigate quality of life issues faced by transferring military families.** Communities can proactively support family relocation with public relations and comprehensive, detailed information on:

- i) Neighborhoods
- ii) Schools
- iii) Spouse employment, licensing, reciprocity
- iv) Community activities/events
- v) Child Care
- vi) Higher education

- 2) **Encourage creation of more child care options.** South Carolina needs more accredited child care centers that qualify for military families to use their DoD vouchers.⁸
 - a) Recommend that the SC Child Care Referral Network develop initiatives to assist current centers to meet DoD standards and to enable new centers to reach accreditation levels.

⁸ See MBTF Issue Brief on Child Care for Military Families at <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

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- b) Establish a relationship with DoD to position SC communities as models for expanding off-base child care facilities. Nationally, DoD is seeking more flexibility to build or expand military child care and improve child care access.⁹
 - c) Renew efforts to pass legislation relating to inspection of childcare facilities that adopts a realistic system to regulate and accredit childcare facilities that choose to or become eligible to meet DoD standards.
- 3) Work with the SC Bar Association and the Attorney General's office to expand pro bono legal services for military personnel and their families.**
- 4) Endorse adoption of increased protections for exceptional family members under the state service members Civilian Relief Act.** This will allow transitioning, mobilized or deployed service members to terminate service contracts without or a reduced penalty.
- 5) Support higher education initiatives to encourage participation in South Carolina institutions of higher education.**
- a) Encourage the Commission on Higher Education to facilitate the process of service members receiving academic credit for military education, training, and experience.
 - b) Support higher education initiatives to allow service members to continue coursework towards a degree if they are transferred or separated during their enrollment.
- 6) Engage in public education improvements through a standing Education Committee of the MBTF.¹⁰** The first question asked by every military parent is "what are the schools like?" The MBTF should join the state's concerted effort to improve the actual and perceived quality of schools.
- a) The MBTF Committee on Education should partner with the SC Department of Education, local school districts and other agencies to support programs proven to yield positive outcomes.
 - i) Support military aerospace educational partnerships, the Military Child Education (MCEC) program, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), and other education initiatives.
 - ii) Encourage the MIC3 Commission to take a more visible and active leadership role to promote the excellence of SC schools to military families.

*"Had we known then what we know now (about SC schools)," stated one General publicly, "we would **not** have put our children in **private** school."*



US Navy ship entering Charleston Harbor

⁹ Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

¹⁰ See MBTF Issue Brief on Public Education at <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

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- iii) Encourage the inclusion of the SC High School League to assist with policies that could enable transitioning military children to easily participate in their school's sports.
 - b) Develop legislation to enable open school enrollment for military families, an advantage for military families who are located on a base with multiple districts. Georgia and North Carolina have enacted this option.
 - c) Communicate the importance of federal impact aid with military families to incent their participation in completing annual forms. Unique identifiers allow districts to receive federal impact aid and receive DoD-funded Military Family Life Counselors when enrollment reaches a certain proportion.
 - d) Encourage school districts to consider adding non-voting military school board members to encourage innovative solutions and strong relationships.
 - e) Encourage utilization of DoD grants for public schools on military installations.
 - f) Improve opportunities for all military children to enroll in Pre-K-4 at SC Public Schools.
- 7) **Enable portability of credentials and state licensing.** The portability of spouse credentials is a serious concern of DoD.¹¹ Some reciprocity and expedited licensing is already available in South Carolina. MBTF should support streamlining these processes.
- a) Encourage the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to enable state licensing reciprocity and an expedited process to grant licenses (temporary or full) for military spouses and honorably discharged service members.
 - b) Urge South Carolina to join licensing compacts recognizing separating service members and military spouses for reciprocal licenses in South Carolina.
 - c) Include military-certified professions in expedited or reciprocal licensing process.
 - d) Support the SC Supreme Court recognition of transitioning military attorney credentials.
 - e) Encourage the SC Department of Education to remove teacher certification impediments for transitioning military spouse teachers.



SCNG Helocasting

¹¹“On Base”, February 16, 2017, online publication of Association of Defense Communities. See MBTF Issue Brief on Portability of Credentials, <http://www.scmilitarybases.com>.

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Objective 4: Support Veterans and Retiree services and benefits through a unified and cohesive administrative structure.

Goals

- 1) Develop a means through which veterans' service and retired military organizations can offer a more united voice, with advice of the SC Veterans Policy Advisory Committee.
- 2) Support legislation to expand the income tax exemption of military retirement pay to 100%.



Training at Parris Island Marine Recruit Depot

CONCLUSION

The values that South Carolina reaps from the military presence in our state—social, patriotic, and economic, both tangible and intangible, are felt throughout each county and city. We are strategically positioned to support these installations, and the quality of life we offer the military, retirees, veterans, and their families is superior. As hosts we must recognize our responsibility to strengthen the value South Carolina offers these installations and the people associated with them. The Department of Defense and our Congress measure their return on investment from factors such as the cost and ease of operation, military value, and quality of life. Local communities, the state, and our federal representatives have a responsibility to exceed those expectations by supporting programs and policies that cultivate our optimal environment for military operations and quality of life. This is what the MBTF has done, as a voice for the military and host communities. We will continue to do so.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"

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Strategic Plan of the Military Base Task Force, 2017



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Bill Bethea
Chairman
South Carolina Military Base Task Force