

Minutes

March 21, 2018

Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force convened on March 21, 2018, at 11:00 AM at Shaw Air Force Base.

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 Van McCarty (SCNG), Mary Graham (Charleston), Haidee Stith (Director of Communications), and Sandy Claypoole (Program Manager).

Guests included Col Daniel Lasica, TSgt Williams, Lt Staver, and SSgt Moore.

No one from the press attended.

Bill Bethea called the meeting to order.

Col Lasica welcomed the Executive Committee and gave a brief history of Shaw Air Force Base. Shaw is one of only three fighter wings and has the largest fighter wing in the Air Force at this time. Shaw has been involved in every named operation since 1981. The Air Force has taken a fighter group and stationed its headquarters at Shaw with a Colonel, a Chief and a small staff that own these active duty airmen. The Air Force has not had a joint task entity at Command and Control in the past. General Goldfein has directed the Air Force to stand one up and it's happening at Shaw. The Rear Headquarters for AFCENT is still at Shaw. Third Army ARCENT is still on base. The MQ-9 airmen are also stationed at Shaw. Nine mission partners have 29 geographic separate units. Over 9000 military personnel work at Shaw. The medical group and the mission support group support over 31,000 people around the globe. The F-16s at Shaw are the first in and the last out on each mission. Less than 1% of our nation is defending our country. Col Lasica said he has never been in a military community where the support is as strong as it is at Shaw.

Reports from Communities

Mary Graham, Charleston

Mary attended the annual meeting of the Chief Civic Leader Group in Washington, DC in February. The Secretary of the Air Force addressed the group and a letter was sent out by the Secretaries of the Army, Air Force and Navy about the emphasis for the communities to be schooled on the reciprocity issues for spouses. The Air Expo is a big focus right now at Joint Base Charleston. It will be a one day show on April 28th with the Thunderbirds. There hasn't been an air show in Charleston in several years because it

is a joint used airport, commercial and military. These air shows are a huge recruitment tool for the Air Force. This is Mary's last week in the office before she moved to Canada. Ian Scott and George Ramsey will be handling the military. A new advisory council of retired Flag Officers of the Air Force and Army is being formed to help advise the Chamber.

Dan Beatty, Fort Jackson

General Johnson will leave around June, probably after Fort Jackson's birthday on June 2nd. Fort Jackson will have a week and a half long victory week to celebrate its birthday. The new training doctrine came out several weeks ago and is basically the same. There will be no 12th basic combat training battalion at Fort Jackson because they aren't able to recruit enough people to fill the training spots. The 81st RSC on Fort Jackson got a new Commanding General in January. It has been renamed from the Readiness Support Command to the Readiness Division. They are changing from an installation support organization to operational support. Fort Jackson also held a well-attended Education Summit in March.

MG Van McCarty, National Guard

The National Guard currently has troops deployed in Afghanistan and Europe. We are vulnerable right now in close air support. Part of the work going on overseas is to work with the Active Duty personnel to rebuild those capabilities. We have a heavy ADA presence in the state with the Army 263rd which is a two-star command in Anderson. The Guard has one of four Army Missile Defense Units. That unit has worked closely with Northcom to oversee air assets and air threats on mainland. We are currently overseeing the active shooter portion of the Air Defense Mission in the National Capital Region. The Air Guard works closely with Shaw. Some personnel have been deployed to SITCOM. The budget presentation was made to the House Ways and Means Committee last month. McEntire is at a 60 million dollar deferred maintenance issue right now. Half of that will come from Federal funds but the state has to put money toward it. Right now the House has in its budget 5 million dollars with 1 million of that being recurring funds. That will be the first time the Guard has had recurring funds for its revitalization. The Guard is hoping to have the ribbon cutting for two new facilities in the upstate next month. An Engineering Brigade headquarters will stand up October 1st. They will also be competing for a new Air Defense Battalion. Guard Day at the State House was March 20th. There is a new Director in place for the Youth Challenge Program. Her name is Latoya Reed. Notification for funding has not yet been received from the Dept of Labor. Hoping for Federal, State or a combination of funding from the two to keep the program running. In the process of upgrading several armories with funds from the General Assembly. There are many females at the armories now and a number of the facilities do not have adequate showers and restrooms to accommodate females.

Steve Creech, Sumter

They are working on improving recruitment. A Viper Pilot from Shaw did a flyover at the Super Bowl. There will be a ribbon cutting for a new veterans park on the east side of the base. The park will have a Red Tail from the Tuskegee Airmen. Col Lasica will probably leave in June for his new command. The AFCENT commander is sending 100 TDY airmen from Kuttar to Shaw. Shaw will get F-35s as soon as the production increases to 1700. Every year on July 4th, Salute from the Shore flies airplanes down the coast of SC. This is McEntire's year to host, but their pilots will be deployed. Jim Wegmann is working to see if Beaufort can host this year.

Haidee Stith, Communications Plan

Haidee discussed how the Task Force is now using social media such as Facebook and Twitter, in addition to working on a newsletter. She requested the Executive Committee members send any contact information to her of those who might have an interest in the Task Force in order to build our network.

Bill Bethea and Charlie Farrell, Legislative Review

There are two important aspects of wind development. One is the obstruction aspect...some are huge with a 300 foot wing span. The other is electromagnetic waves...radar waves are distorted when they travel through the electromagnetic waves.

Charlie read part of House bill 4304 pertaining to offshore wind development explaining that this bill was proceeding with no notification to or consideration of the military. Bill Bethea was able to have the following language added to the bill:

Whereas, the South Carolina coastline is also the location of 52,000 square miles comprising the Regional Military Operating Area bordering coastal Florida, Georgia and South Carolina ("Military Operating Areas") which provide critical flight training areas to support the mission of military aviation forces in the southeastern United States; and

Whereas, it is recognized that the military use of the Military Operating Areas must not be impaired by the installation of wind turbines in areas incompatible with their continued use for vital military training purposes.

(G) In considering any application for approval under this act of any offshore wind resource development activities in areas that comprise a portion of the Military Training Areas bordering South Carolina or Georgia, the Commission must not approve an application without the prior written concurrence of the applicable federal, state and local authority.

Bill stated that tax relief for retired military will not happen this legislative session. We are updating the REMI study and preparing to pre-file for next year a bill that actually picks up after the phase in is complete and converts after year six to the full exemption. We are planning a joint effort with the Chamber who will work on the business side of passing the exemption while we work on the legislative side to roll out after the November elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Claypoole