

Minutes
October 25, 2018
Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force convened on October 25, 2018, at 11:00 AM in the Palmetto Room at 1201 Main 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 (Columbia), MG Robert Livingston (TAG), George Ramsey (Charleston), Haidee Stith (Director of Communications), and Sandy Claypoole (Program Manager). Steve Creech (Sumter) and Jim Wegmann (Beaufort) were on conference call.

Renee Sexton from SC Radio Network attended.

Bill Bethea called the meeting to order.

The minutes from our previous meeting on 3-21-18 were approved.

REPORTS FROM COMMUNITIES

Jim Wegmann, Beaufort

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is building a recycling hazardous waste facility for \$9.5 M and a new cryogenics facility for \$6.3M. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is working on Phase II of their range improvement and modernization for \$35.19M. The bill contains funds for small dollar projects of \$50 million to each military construction account for Navy, Marines, Air Force, etc. The fund is available to SC bases through appropriate agencies for 2019. This money will help alleviate deficiencies in access control points such as air traffic control towers, fire stations, and anti-terrorism force protection. Congressional Defense Committees have been concerned about anti-terrorism and points of construction falling short of protection in prior fiscal years.

George Ramsey, Charleston

Col Terrence Adams is the new Commander at the 628th Air Base Wing and Joint Base Charleston. Capt Wesley Sanders assumed command of SPAWAR, which will play a role in the new Space Force initiative. Thanks to Senator Scott's office for the National Defense Authorization Act which will continue funding for the Marine Corps amphibious vehicle program. Mary Graham attended the Air Force Civic Leaders Fall program in Colorado Springs. According to Mary, the Air Force will request for a 25% increase in capacity, going from 312 to 386 squadrons, and needed growth in cyber. Army Corp of Engineers is continuing the harbor digging.

Dan Beatty, Fort Jackson

Former Commander of Fort Jackson, General Brad Becker, took over Installation Management Command for the Army in San Antonio, TX. Real ID exemption will extend until October 2020 for all bases. Fort Jackson continues with privatization efforts, selecting Dominion Energy to manage and upgrade the electrical system. There will be an increase in personnel assigned to basic combat training from the instructor position sometime next year, a lieutenant and sergeant to each platoon. Last year the Army changed Advanced Individual Training to eliminate the AIT Platoon Sergeants into AIT. Additionally, the Army is looking to extend Basic Combat Training to facilitate the increased physical fitness due to the general decline in physical readiness. Infantry OSUT (One station unit training) has already extended their course accordingly; others to follow once funding is approved. \$52M in funds from NDAA for Phase III training barracks at Fort Jackson. Bill, Charlie and Dan met with General Beagle and Col McLamb last week. General Beagle wants to expand the message of Fort Jackson across the state, so please notify his office if you hear of speaking engagements where the General can tell the Fort Jackson story.

Steve Creech, Sumter

Shaw has officially stood up two RPA squadrons with 183 airmen. \$53M in the milcon for construction of their facilities. One F-16 squadron deployed last week for six months. The other two are home. Shaw has added ten families from Tyndall AFB after Hurricane Michael, working with the community to extend a helping hand. Duke Energy has installed solar panels on 284 privatized houses at Shaw. The solar panels should offset 40% of the total annual electrical consumption.

MG Robert Livingston, National Guard

We still have Air Defense battery and brigade in Europe with a single company. It is our turn in rotation to cover the security of the air space in Washington, DC. Our Cyber Battalion is half-way through their rotation in Washington, mainly doing offensive cyber operations. We are assisting in Tyndall with the command suite. The second portion of the main body is coming back this afternoon from operations in Syria and Afghanistan. Our aviation attack battalion with Apaches and Chinooks returned from Afghanistan two months ago. With Hurricane Michael, we were the first in the nation to put together a Joint Interagency Intel Analysis cell that gave the Governor an unprecedented amount of information and brought in many different sensor predictive capabilities allowing us to position and build proactively. We also used the Raven, a hand launched unmanned aerial vehicle to do reconnaissance up to three miles away. That was the first time we used the tactical level vehicles. Changes of Commands to Col Rod Stillwell with the 218th brigade, Col Ryan Young with the 228th, Col Byron Williams with the 218th regiment (which is the school house), and Col James Fidler with the 59th aviation. Our 30th brigade from NC will go to the National Training Center next year and then deploy to Kuwait in a planned rotation. We are working with Joint Base Charleston to put an armory on the north side of that base that will replace a Summerville armory that closed recently. We are also working with Aiken Tech to put an armory that will be working initiatives with the Cyber Center at Fort Gordon. Rebuilding the Air

Guard headquarters building and Operations building. Good funding from the NDAA. Still a small problem equipping attack aviation. We are equipped with 18 aircraft versus 24, which is what a battalion carries. There are four battalions and we have to plus up a battalion when we deploy. We had 24 in Afghanistan. We just came back and have eight or nine for training. We're working with Congress to build out an AH64E model battalion. If that works out there is a good chance that SC will be that battalion. The E model can work with controlled aircraft to take information for targeting and the D model cannot. The time line to bring E models on line will be when the 151st is scheduled to mobilize again. Congress has approved 6 of the 24. SC is in the top of the nation in readiness...both physical and MOS.

February 16th will be General Livingston's change of command. His term actually ends on the 11th of January.

REPORTS ON TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

Bill Bethea, Charlie Farrell and Haidee Stith

Bill Bethea and Charlie Farrell talked about wind turbine issues as related to military low level flying. We sponsored a conference in Charleston to learn about the Siting Clearing House, 35 attendees from Washington, Atlanta, and elsewhere. A bill will be introduced in the legislature to provide a roadmap for development of the wind industry while protecting military interests.

USC has taken on the challenge of restoring and archiving official US Marine Corps film from World War II forward. Bill Bethea accepted a check for \$100,000 from the museum at Parris Island. Another matching gift for \$100,000 is forthcoming.

Bill explained the progress with credentialing through LLR and how military service spouses can expedite their credentialing process. This has become a big issue for DoD as it affects family finances.

Bill gave the report from VPAC to Governor McMaster, who was very positive about our recommendation for the division of Veterans Affairs becoming a cabinet position.

The Military Caucus is doing well under Phil Hamby's efforts. Phil is the Director of Governmental Affairs with the Office of the Adjutant General.

Sandy Claypoole and Charlie Farrell went on the Boss Lift sponsored by the National Guard. They took a tour of McEntire and rode on a Blackhawk helicopter around Columbia.

We established an Upstate Advisory Council with approximately 20 people. Our Economic Impact Study shows the upstate contributes over \$2B to SC.

We also established a group headed by Jack Klimp called SC Flags. There are almost 200 Flag Officers living in SC. We reached out to them and so far we have 95 positive responses. Approximately 15 of them plan on attending the Governor's Commanders Briefing.

Bill and Charlie attended a sea-rise conference in Charleston where Lt General Cheney spoke. Charleston and Parris Island have problems now so SC wants to be proactive to deal with the issues.

USO is a tremendous benefit for our military.

Haidee Stith took us on a tour of the new website. We now have a full social media presence.

Bill covered the 2019 legislative initiatives and that more work needs to be done, especially on the military retirement pay exemption. Dan covered how the exemption would work. Bill covered the DoD legislative initiatives and how well we are doing as a state. Bill also talked about pre-filing our bills and asked for everyone's help.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWED

A motion was made and was carried to give a \$25,000 grant to each military community.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Claypoole