

## **Minutes**

**January 25, 2017**

### **Executive Committee**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force convened on January 25, 2017, at 2:00 PM at the BB&T Building in Columbia.

The following people were in attendance: William L. Bethea, Jr. (Chairman), Charlie Farrell (Executive Coordinator), Jim Wegmann (Beaufort), Mary Graham (Charleston), Col (Ret) Dan Beatty, Steve Creech (Sumter), MG Van McCarty (SCNG), Allison Caldwell, MG (Ret) George Goldsmith, Joey Von Nessen, Scott Jaillette, Kevin Bruch, BG Brad Owens, Bill Dukes, Jennifer Newlands, Haidee Stith and Sandy Claypoole.

Charlie Farrell introduced Eric Alkine with Channel 19.

Bill Bethea called the meeting to order and introduced Sandy Claypoole.

### **Report from Military Communities**

#### **Jim Wegmann, Beaufort:**

Lockheed Martin Apprenticeship program. Getting started with the program is a little difficult. Right now, they are trying to figure out what will be needed; what requirements will be put in place, what facilities will be needed, and what the overall costs will be. We will be meeting with county council in the next two weeks. Lockheed Martin has taken the lead on the project and they are excited to get it up and running. They are bringing in training and planning people from their Fort Worth plant to help. Focusing on local level right now and the depo level in the future. It is a positive development from both military aspect and Beaufort County. The program will help build a strong workforce.

#### **Mary Graham, Charleston:**

Charleston is the winner of Association of Defense Community award again this year after receiving two leadership awards last year. Charleston currently has six P4 programs in process. They are looking for additional P4 projects. The Africa Command Proposal will be re-evaluated after being told by previous administration to put it to the side. The current administration has expressed interest and have asked for it to be reopened. Mary has been selected as a member of the Air Force Civic Leaders in Washington. She has been assigned to a subcommittee to work on redesign of the squadron.

**Dan Beatty, Columbia:**

Columbia will be having two strategic planning sessions one in Feb and one in March. Air Force Chaplin School has left Ft. Jackson. The Army Chaplin School has already taken its place and put a reserve one star general as command of the school. The Army has been directed to increase end strength to 16000. The 11<sup>th</sup> battalion will move up their basic combat training schedule to April. This is all good news for Fort Jackson.

**Steve Creech, Sumter**

Shaw is doing well. Air Combat Command announced Shaw would be the recipient of the third Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) mission without the planes in the US. We were in the running for both planes and pilots but Air Force decided to start with just the pilots here. Lots of deployments.

**MG Van McCarty, SC National Guard (for MG Robert Livingston)**

600 soldiers deployed outside of US - Kuwait, Iraq, Horn of Africa, Guantanamo Bay, and Korea. SC identified as a Dark Green State capable of additional growth. Want to get an additional brigade combat team back in SC. Also possibly adding a 95 man cyber battalion unit that would be unique to SC. The Guard also has many positive partnerships with private companies, for example SCANA, USC, SPAWAR and other higher education outlets. They are in the early stages of securing a loan of property from Beaufort County. Planning the relocation of MP Company and transport unit to MCAS Beaufort. Truck drivers work well with civilian sector and supporting local needs.

**BG Brad Owens –Savanah River Site Department of Energy complex**

One hundred ninety-eight thousand acres total. Nineteen thousand acres developed for nuclear plant facilities, including larger buffer around the complex. One hundred twenty thousand acres left for training. Affords 750 acres to develop barracks, training facilities, and other needed facilities. This site makes a unique nuclear industrial training site and means significant economic impact for the county. Fort Gordon controls military training now. SCNG hope to gain control in the future. South Carolina has a significant amount of training space.

**Legislative Session – Bill Bethea**

Fifteen bills on the floor. Real ID bill has already started the hearing process. Military commanders around the state want resolution on this problem.

South Carolina Association of School Administrators passed a resolution expressing support for the school system. We will support the school system in making this a priority.

Pro bono legal assistance efforts are being made with Jim Wegmann and the Bar Association.

Lack of childcare facilities that meet DoD requirements is a problem. South Carolina does not have regulations that deal with this issue. We will work on this.

### **Website Update – Allison Caldwell**

From a year and a half ago, the website is progressing nicely. Right now, it is a work in progress and gives idea of what it will look like when complete. Currently collecting images and photos from SC installations that will be added to the site and will be changed when the site is live. There is an Economic Impact section and a space for meeting outlines and agendas. There is also a press release and community news area where current events can be added/updated and where awards such as 'Charleston's Association of Defense Community Award' can be added. There will also be a call to action section where we can add things like the REAL ID Bill to increase awareness of the issue. There is also a section to provide information on each base.

### **Strategic Plan - Haidee Stith and Charlie Farrell**

Haidee is going to each community with an installation and meeting with officials from the installation as well as with local governments. Common themes across many of the installations are family issues, childcare, and encroachment issues. After completing each meeting, Haidee is sending the meeting summary to the officials she meet with for their approval before releasing any information. Once she has approval from the officials she will provide the task force with the information discussed. So far, ever thing is positive and all requests seem feasible.

### **Economic Impact Study - Joey Von Nessen**

Working on a draft that will be available Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. All previous figures are from 2014 study. There will be many new components this year because of new data availability. Big emphasis on retired veteran's VA \$3.3 billion dollars from the entire state, not just the four installation sites. DoD private contracts are down. Half of all military retirees are of working age, and that is a conservative number. Working age defined as between 25 and 65 years of age. There is a high demand for these retirees and they have a high skill level. The top four occupations that retirees are hired into are: management, protective services, business & finance, and engineering. SC has a shortage of skilled labor and the retirees help make up some of the gap. The Ports Authority is an asset of the military and private sector. This resource brings in more contractors who supply military facilities around the world, not just in SC. Of 4600 veterans per year that transition from the military, 26% are undecided about staying in SC because of lack of jobs.

### **New key issue list – Kevin Bruch DoD**

The issue of military spouses getting their professional license expedited has been resolved. There was a previous miscommunication because teaching licenses are not classified under the Office of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. They are classified under the Department of Education. The Dept of Ed has resolved the issue by making a dedicated effort to expedite these licenses as quickly as possible. There is a space on their website and a dedicated key person to help expedite teaching licenses. The contract termination issue for military service members and their families is still going on. For deployed and TDY for 90 days there is no fee or negative side effects for termination of contracts. Efforts are under way to add military dependents and spouses to this as well. The issue of lawyers representing active military pro bono still needs to be addressed. There needs to be a governing body to help organize, fund, and navigate the needs and resources for both the lawyers and the military members. Examples of other states are NV, GA, NM, and TX. The SC Bar association receives daily requests for lawyers to work pro-bono for the active military. There may be a need to set up a mandatory requirement of a certain number of pro-bono hours going to active military. The state is still looking for the best approach.

### **Veterans Study Committee – Bill Bethea**

Veterans Study Committee is now under MBTF. We are waiting on the Governor's appointments by executive order so we can pull the committee together.

### **Task Force updates**

MBTF office is now on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor. Holly retired. Jennifer Newlands is on loan helping out in the interim.

### **Break for Executive Session**

#### **Executive Session**

Bill Bethea discussed confidential task force business. Executive session closed and matters discussed in executive session were voted on in open session. Steve moved to approve and Mary seconded with that the motion was passed awarding a \$30,000 grant to each of four SC military installation communities.

Several upcoming events were discussed including the upcoming tentative executive committee meeting on March 15 2017.

#### **Open Session**

The meeting was adjourned.