

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**June 29, 2005**  
**Bridgeton, Missouri**

Members in attendance: Craig Borchelt, Bob Welling, Kent Thomas, Rep. Terry Witte, Loretta Charleston, Rep. David Pearce, Dalton Wright, and Sen. Frank Barnitz.

Others in attendance: Brigadier General King E. Sidwell, Aaron Washburn (for Sen. Chris Koster), Ms. Kacky Garner (St. Louis office of Senator Jim Talent), Lt. Bridget Zorn, Stacey Hirst (DED), Elizabeth Hobbs (DED), Kevin -last name not heard- (KMOX Radio), Kevin Lavery (KWNW Radio).

Those making presentations:

Colonel Michael Brandt (131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing), Colonel Bob Leeker (131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing), Jacqueline Davis-Wellington (St. Louis County Economic Council), and Otis Williams (Defense Finance and Accounting Services-St. Louis).

Dalton Wright, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

May 31, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chair Wright asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2005 meeting. Stacey Hirst pointed typographical errors. She stated the minutes would be corrected and then forwarded to Mr. Wright for his signature. Chair Wright noted an error on page 4 and said since he was chairing the meeting he would not have made the motion to hire a consultant. Kent Thomas said he had made the motion and Bob Welling said he had seconded it. Stacey Hirst stated those corrections would also be made. Bob Welling then stated that instead of a motion to approve the minutes, the Commission needed to make a motion to ratify and affirm the minutes from the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, because at the time of the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, the non-legislative commission members had not officially taken their oath. He cited Section 39 of Robert's Rule of Order as his reference. All non-legislative members present affirmed they had now signed the certificate of oath. Bob Welling made the motion and Craig Borchelt seconded it. The minutes were ratified and affirmed unanimously, with noted corrections.

Status Report on Consultant

Chair Wright then moved on to the discussion of the consultant. He reported that Marlin Hefti, of Van Scoyoc Associates, had been selected at the suggestion of the Governor and DED. The Commission and DED have contracted through the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB) for payment of Van Scoyoc. The St. Louis Regional Business Council has committed to assist with funding and St. Louis County has a supplemental appropriation pending. Chair Wright stated he alone had made an executive decision to approve the hiring of Mr. Hefti because of the short time frame. He stated he had been told the Consultant did an excellent job of organizing comments for the BRAC Commission hearing on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Chair Wright also thanked Craig Borchelt and General Sidwell on their excellent presentations and for all participation at the hearing.

Rep. Pearce commented that the Missouri delegation had included a large federal delegation lead by Senators Bond and Talent. He stated that the entire Missouri delegation had come across as very professional and all the presentations had been very well thought out and organized.

Rep. Pearce then asked if there had been any discussion about the consultant being retained after the BRAC process was completed, prompting a discussion among the members regarding the consultant's future involvement with the commission, the importance of the continuity of information, to whom and what type of assistance the consultant had provided prior to the BRAC Commission hearing on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and how the fees would be paid.

Chair Wright stated the Military Commission should request a meeting with the consultant, after the BRAC process is completed, to discuss the assistance he provided and review his contract. Mr. Wright said the Commission members needed to be satisfied with the results obtained before continuing a relationship with the consultant.

Rep. Pearce suggested that the DED should survey other states to see what they have done in response to the BRAC announcements.

Mr. Borchelt shared with the members that Congressman Akin is working on a proactive initiative to encourage job growth in Missouri's defense industry. He said there would be discussions with local businesses, like Boeing, about selecting Missouri subcontractors, whenever possible, and the plausibility of asking out of state subcontractors to move their facilities to Missouri.

Chair Wright stated this is an area he felt the DED should be involved with.

**Lunch recess was taken from 11:58 a.m. to 12:31 p.m.**

#### 131<sup>st</sup> National Guard Fighter Wing Presentation

Immediately after the meeting was called back to order, Chair Wright announced that Colonel Michael Brandt and Colonel Bob Leeker of the 131<sup>st</sup> Air National Guard Fighter Wing would now make their presentation regarding the 131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing Unit and the impact the BRAC recommendations would have. Colonel Brandt made opening remarks and then introduced Colonel Leeker. Colonel Leeker then began a PowerPoint presentation. (See attached presentation)

After Colonel Leeker's presentation, Rep. Pearce asked if there was anything the state of Missouri could be involved in regarding the airport expansion at Lambert as far as the National Guard was concerned.

Gen. Sidwell responded that discussions are on-going with city, state and federal representatives.

Col. Brandt thanked the Governor and the Commission for taking an active role in the BRAC process. He stated that he found the BRAC recommendations incredulous, as a National Guard unit had never been affected by BRAC before. He then discussed the presentation he made at the BRAC hearing. (See attached

testimony) One of Colonel Brandt's most notable comments was, "If BRAC goes through with its recommendation to reassign the 131<sup>st</sup> F-15C's to other air force bases, by 2016 there will be no 'Tasked' units protecting the Midwest area of the U.S."

He ended his presentation by stating there were 3 basic arguments to make against the BRAC:

- (1) BRAC did not consider homeland defense issues and did not realize what the 131<sup>st</sup> was responsible for protecting;
- (2) Cost. BRAC is supposed to reduce excess and save money. No cost reduction or cost savings will be realized. It will take \$27 million to close the facility and \$35,000 per year to keep closed.
- (3) The BRAC has not handled the process correctly from the beginning and has not accomplished its mission.

Bob Welling asked what the time frame for closure was if the BRAC plans are approved.

Col. Brandt stated the transfer would begin in 2008 with final completion in 2011 - It would be a gradual decline in people and capacity. He said, "Human capital will be lost; money spent on training for Guard pilots will be lost; combat capability will be gone. Recruitment will be very difficult."

#### Relocation of Army National Guard Reserve Unit at Jefferson Barracks

General Sidwell then addressed the Jefferson Barracks issue. He noted that the state owns the grounds at Jefferson Barracks; it is a historic landmark, the oldest military facility west of the Mississippi; it was used during WWII and every military action since. Gen. Sidwell stated that BRAC wants to relocate the 157<sup>th</sup> Air Operation Group from Jefferson Barracks to Lambert Field, but there are no facilities in place at Lambert Field to accommodate the relocation and the DOD would have to build new facilities.

Rep. Witte asked what and where are the navy and marine units located at Lambert?

Col. Brandt responded that they are reserve units and mainly serve administrative and training functions.

#### St. Louis County EDC Presentation – HRC St. Louis

Jackie Wellington from the St. Louis County EDC then made a presentation (Presentation information attached) about the Human Resource Command Center. She stated that The St. Louis County EDC has been working with the City of Overland and have mainly looked at the real estate and housing issues associated with accommodating additional workforce. Ms. Wellington's presentation included graphs that compared the St. Louis area's infrastructure to that of Fort Knox, KY. The graphs showed that Fort Knox's current infrastructure couldn't support the proposed realignment. Also included were aerial maps of HRC-St. Louis' existing layout and of proposed site improvements. The St. Louis County EDC has identified the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for relocation, which will free up one building and provide additional capacity to handle the realignment without new facility construction. The General Service Administration has been

working with the County and they have estimated the cost to retrofit the existing site and acquire additional land would be approximately \$35 million. The estimated cost for new construction needed at Fort Knox starts at \$60 million. The information packet also contained a copy of Charlie A. Dooley's testimony to the BRAC Commission, which clearly and concisely explained why HRC-St. Louis is the most logical realignment site, logistically and fiscally. Ms. Wellington said the BRAC has requested all the information the Missouri delegation presented and requested a visit to the Alexandria to determine what type of facilities were needed to house their existing operations. She felt that was a positive sign that BRAC now knows they need to reconsider their decision.

#### Presentation by Human Resource Command (HRC)

Craig Borchelt then made a presentation (see attached) regarding the impact of losing HRC-St. Louis. He was not surprised it was on the list. The HRC mainly deals with reservists, retirees, veterans and IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) personnel records. Fort Knox has been used mainly for training and does not have a large administrative facility to accommodate the re-alignment. Mr. Borchelt said he believes the information the Missouri delegation presented at the BRAC Commission hearing proved the BRAC recommendations were not the best decisions that could be made. Shortly after the hearing several issues, not previously mentioned, were brought out. One was the fact that BRAC felt the HRC workforce in St. Louis was difficult to deal with and did not take care of the soldiers. BRAC cites complaints have been made that it is difficult for soldiers calling in to get information they want or need. Mr. Borchelt felt the real issue was the HRC did not have enough staff to deal with the large volume of requests for information. They maintain records on approximately 1,057,000 reserve and retired military. Another issue brought up was that "Active" workforce unions were costing over \$350,000 a year in litigation expense at the HRC. The last issue was possible traffic congestion in the areas around HRC-St. Louis.

#### Presentation by Defense Finance and Accounting Service, St. Louis

Otis Williams with the St. Louis Development Council then made a presentation regarding the DFAS on behalf of Mayor Slay's office. (Please see talking points.)

A discussion ensued regarding coordination between the St. Louis and Kansas City DFAS and the best mechanism for the commission to get the information presented gets to the congressional delegation. Chair Wright felt the mechanism would be through DED and the Governor's office.

Gen. Sidwell stated he thought the Congressional delegation was meeting once a month to discuss the BRAC. Stacey Hirst said she would let the leadership at DED know this issue was critical.

***Mr. Borchelt stated the BRAC Commission has asked for all comments prior to July 15<sup>th</sup>.***

Chair Wright then asked if any other business needed to be discussed. Rep. Pearce discussed the meetings in KC and Warrensburg and talked about the optional tour of Whiteman and the evening social event. The Whiteman Area Leadership Council will sponsor the social event. The commission members asked DED to provide parking suggestions for the KC meeting. Stacey Hirst stated the agenda and driving directions for the meetings would be provided the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion about future BRACs and the importance of the Military Commission taking appropriate measures to strengthen Missouri's position and make necessary changes that will lessen the impact of future BRAC decisions. Chair Wright commented the state needed to look ahead and ask the Missouri military facilities what needs they have. It was suggested that more community involvement was needed. Ms. Charleston asked if the Commission would continue to meet after the September BRAC decision. All of the members present agreed the Military Commission should continue to meet and work on proactive solutions to improve Missouri's military position. Chair Wright thanked everyone for their participation.

Rep. Pearce made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes approved: 13 July 2005

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton C. Wright", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dalton Wright, Commission Chair