

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**  
**HST 500 Jefferson City, MO**  
**[www.mmpec.ded.mo.gov](http://www.mmpec.ded.mo.gov)**

Members in Attendance: Chairman Dalton Wright, Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce, Senator Frank Barnitz, Senator Bill Stouffer, Kent Thomas, Robert Welling, and Representative Terry Witte

Members Absent: Jeff Bloemker

Guests in Attendance: Jay Edwards, SBA; Sam Jones, SBA; Pat Kerr, Missouri Veterans Commission; Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard; David Strange, Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Bill McCoy, Department of Economic Development; and Krista Zurkamer, Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC July 25, 2007 meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Chairman Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all in attendance for their support.

The Commission members, supporting staff and guests made introductions.

The minutes from the May 23, 2007 meeting were introduced and reviewed. Chairman Dalton Wright called for additions and/or corrections to the minutes.

With no corrections Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve said minutes. Kent Thomas moved, Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce seconded the motion to accept the May 23, 2007 minutes. All approved, motion carried.

**S.B.A. Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative, Sam Jones**

The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the SBA's Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses, Mr. Sam Jones thanked the Commission for the invite today to share with them this exciting new initiative. Eligible military community members include:

1. Veterans
2. Service-disabled veterans
3. Active-duty service members eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program
4. Reservists and National Guard members
5. Current spouses of any of the above
6. The widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service or of a service-connected disability

7. The SBA and its resource partners are focusing additional efforts on counseling and training to augment this loan initiative.

The new Patriot Express loan is offered by SBA's network of participating lenders nationwide and features their fastest turnaround time for loan approvals. Loans are available up to \$500,000 and qualify for SBA's maximum guaranty of up to 85 percent for loans of \$150,000 or less and up to 75 percent for loans over \$150,000 up to \$500,000. For loans above \$350,000, lenders are required to take all available collateral.

The Patriot Express loan can be used for most business purposes, including start-up, expansion, equipment purchases, working capital, inventory or business-occupied real-estate purchases. Patriot Express loans feature SBA's lowest interest rates for business loans, generally 2.25 percent to 4.75 percent over prime depending upon the size and maturity of the loan. Your local SBA district office will have a listing of Patriot Express lenders in your area.

SBA has veterans' business development officers in district offices in every state and territory able to provide military community members full access to the SBA's range of programs and services. What's more, there are five Veterans Business Outreach Centers located in: Albany, N.Y; Pittsburgh; Lynn Haven, Fla.; Edinburg, Texas; and Sacramento, Calif.

In addition to district offices, SBA's resource partners SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business; Small Business Development Centers; and Women's Business Centers provide local and online assistance with:

1. Writing a business plan
2. Financing options to start or grow your business
3. Managing the business
4. Expanding the business
5. Selling goods and services to the government

The SBA and its resource partners have expertise to assist you with:

1. Preparing your business for your deployment
2. Managing your business
  - Free or low-cost online training through the Small Business Training Network
  - Free business counseling at
3. Selling goods and services to the government
4. Obtaining SBA financing for:
  - Starting and growing a business
  - Major fixed-asset loans to purchase land and buildings
  - Surety bond guarantees for construction contractors who are veterans
  - Equity financing matching venture capitalists with your small business

- Export assistance programs to help your business be part of the global economy
- 5. Linking your small business with federal agencies and private corporations to improve procurement prospects
- 6. Contracting opportunities for veterans who own businesses
- 7. Recovering from declared disasters
  - MREIDL – Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available for small businesses sustaining economic injury because an owner or essential employee has been called to active duty as a military reservist.
    - Physical Disaster Business Loans – Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available for qualified businesses to replace or return business property to pre-disaster conditions.

### **Unemployment Compensation, David Strange**

Mr. David Strange thanked the Commission for the invitation to speak before them and was thankful for the work the Commission does. His son is currently deployed overseas. The Missouri Division of Employment Security provides payment of unemployment insurance benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own. Eligible individuals may qualify for up to 26 weeks of unemployment compensation under Missouri's regular program.

Unemployment Insurance programs provide partial protection for workers against loss of wages during periods of involuntary unemployment. The benefits paid to insured workers bolster the economy of the state during periods of economic recession by helping maintain the level of consumer purchasing power.

Payment of benefits under the regular program are made from a trust fund supported by contributions from private for-profit employers, payments by governmental, and nonprofit employers who reimburse in lieu of paying contributions. No part of the contribution is deducted from a worker's wages.

The Unemployment Compensation for ex-service members program provides benefits for eligible ex-military personnel. The program is administered by the States as agents of the Federal government.

1. If you were on active duty with a branch of the U.S. military, you may be entitled to benefits based on that service.
2. You must have been separated under honorable conditions.
3. There is no payroll deduction from the service member's wages for unemployment insurance protection. Benefits are paid for by the various branches of the military.

During some initial research Mr. Strange found that ten states offer some coverage of unemployment compensation for certain military spouses; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington. Additionally Pennsylvania offers coverage only if reason for move was

circumstances beyond the spouse's control and there were insurmountable economic circumstances.

### **Missouri Veterans Commission, Pat Kerr**

The next Missouri Veterans Commission meeting will be on September 25, 2007 at the Jacksonville Veteran Cemetery at 10am. Ms. Kerr presented a brain injury booklet put together by the MVC and the Department of Mental Health. Ms. Kerr will send copies to Krista Zurkamer to forward to the entire Commission. On September 9 will be the Freedom Walk in Jefferson City. We will be on hand to sign up veterans for their benefits. Ms. Kerr extended an invitation to the entire Commission to join the staff of the MVC in the Freedom Walk.

Chairman Wright called for a lunch break at 11:41 p.m.

MMPEC meeting resumed at 12:13 p.m.

### **Military Child Education Coalition Annual Conference, Kent Thomas and Robert Welling**

Robert Welling and Kent Thomas attended the Military Child Education Coalition Conference from July 11-13, 2007 in Kansas City. The conference turned out to be a particularly beneficial source of information concerning military families, their school age children, and steps the federal government is taking to meet the needs of this population. The conference provided numerous points of contact and information regarding how the federal government, and in particular, the Department of Defense, go about determining the relative friendliness of various states.

700 people participated in the conference. Senior leadership was visibly present and participative. The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy spoke, one Army combatant commander in chief was present for the entire conference, a Navy rear admiral was present for one day, the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, a lieutenant general was present for two days, and no fewer than four retired four star generals, two retired three star generals, one retired two star, and two retired one star generals participated in the conference.

Both Mr. Welling and Mr. Thomas benefited from the seminars on recommended policy regarding educating military children, supporting children of the National Guard and Reserves, Pre-Kindergarten transfer recommendations, programs like the Student to Student and Parent to Parent initiatives, demonstrations of exceptional school district programs for military families, programs the Army Reserve offers for children of National Guard and Reserve soldiers who are geographically displaced and isolated, and an update on DoD initiatives for the military child in transition and deployment. Sesame Street has joined the wagon and along with Wal-Mart has developed a video for parents and children when dealing with the transition of deployment.

Of the school districts in Missouri with high concentrations of military students, only Knob Noster was represented at the conference, with both the Superintendent and

Assistant Superintendent attending. Many of the Missouri school districts with military student concentrations were omitted from the “Guiding Principles for Addressing the Issues of Transitioning Military Students” Memorandum of Agreement issued by the MCEC. Representatives from the DoD made it clear to the conference that they intended to pursue resolution with the omitted school districts across the map. They will start in states with higher concentrations of military children and will endeavor to get state agreement and cooperation, but should that not be forthcoming, they will seek federal legislation to meet the needs of America’s military children. Failing to compete in this arena places Missouri at a disadvantage when the military reviews basing and stationing options. The intent of the Memorandum of Agreement, MOA, is to invite school systems that serve military connected children to join together in committing to The Guiding Principles. A team of practicing school superintendents, school board members, and commanders developed the Agreement. The Guiding Principles are designed to encourage and support schools as they work together to increase the likelihood of predictability for mobile students: a unified understanding among many systems and therefore are not subject to local changes, additions or modifications; an interconnected, total construct that asks participants to commit to the Guiding Principles as a whole; and the nexus of local action and solutions.

Both Mr. Welling and Mr. Thomas made some incredible connections at the conference which will aid Commission information gathering. They encouraged the Commission to join MCEC as a member.

The Commission agreed further research and discussion would be needed on the MCEC. Krista Zurkamer said she would send out a letter to those districts absent from the Memorandum of Agreement.

### **2007 Annual Report**

Chairman Dalton Wright encouraged all members to begin glancing over the previous two Annual Reports in preparation for 2007 Annual Report. After some initial discussion it was suggested that a listing be added to the end of the Report to historically document what has been done. Also discussed was a section for legislative initiatives; what the benefit to the military was and the end result of the bill. A list of all the outside business activities that the Commission participated in would be added to the report also.

The Commission was in agreement that the next meeting after our Saint Joseph trip would be solely designated for composing the 2007 Annual Report. Discussion continued on date and location for the next meeting. The Commission was in agreement the meeting would be November 7 in Jefferson City.

Chairman Dalton Wright reminded the Commission of some new additions to the Commission. Chairman Wright introduced Senator Stouffer as a new appointment to the Commission along with Jeff Bloemker, whom was unable to attend today. We are still short a Democratic Governor appointed position. Chairman Wright welcomed both gentleman to the Commission and looked forward to their contributions.

Robert Welling added that Rachel Wheeler, former liaison for Whiteman Air Force Base, has departed Missouri with her husband's new military appointment. Mr. Welling commented on the Resolution presented to her on July 6 for her contributions to the Commission. Mr. Welling would like to incorporate it in the minutes and commend Mrs. Wheeler on her contributions and dedication to the Commission.

Chairman Dalton Wright supported Mr. Welling's comments and added Mrs. Wheeler will be missed.

The Commission will meet next at Saint Joseph on October 3 followed by our next meeting on November 7. Krista Zurkamer will email out the detail information.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Minutes Approved:



3-October-2007

---

Dalton Wright, Chair

Date