

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Wednesday, November 7, 2007**  
**HST 400 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, Jeff Bloemker, Senator Bill Stouffer, Kent Thomas, Robert Welling, and Representative Terry Witte

Guests in Attendance: Larry Erickson, Department of Natural Resources; Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard; Becky Verslues, Department of Economic Development; Kevin Stover, Department of Economic Development; Mike Nichols, Department of Economic Development; and Krista Zurkamer, Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC November 7, 2007 meeting to order at 10:32 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 October 3, 2007 meeting were introduced and reviewed. Chairman Dalton Wright called for additions and/or corrections to the minutes.

Representative Terry Witte introduced two changes to the minutes. On page two last paragraph seventh line he would like "for which" to be added after benefits. On page three an -ed needs to be added to the end of adjourn at the end of the page.

With said corrections Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve said minutes.

Kent Thomas moved, Senator Bill Stouffer seconded the motion to accept the October 3, 2007 minutes with said changes. All approved, motion carried.

**Marketing the 2007 Annual Report, Department of Economic Development**

Krista Zurkamer introduced Becky Verslues to the Commission, Ms. Verslues will be assisting Ms. Zurkamer in formatting the 2007 MMPEC Annual Report. Ms. Verslues is joining the meeting today to gather additional information in what the Commission would like the Report to look like. The Commission discussed the appearance of the Report. All were in agreement that they would like to see a photo collage on the front cover of the Report representing the military presence in Missouri. Everyone felt that photos were not necessary inside the Report.

Kevin Stover suggested to the Commission a press conference introducing the Annual Report to the Governor and the state. Alongside the Report, DED could

put together an executive summary highlighting the Report. Mr. Stover also suggested Ms. Zurkamer and Bill McCoy would get with M.E.R.I.C. to see if an economic impact representation of the military in Missouri could be put together and shown on a map displaying the Senate and House districts. The Commission liked the suggestions, the Department would move forward in putting together possible supplemental materials.

### **Military Family Leave Law, Dalton Wright**

Chairman Dalton Wright introduced to the Commission some information about what some of the states are doing to provide military family leave support. Within the meeting packets the Commission members will find some of this information forwarded onto Chairman Wright. Col. Allen Stark added in October California passed the "California's New Leave Law for the Spouses of Military Members". This is something that Missouri may want to consider. The new legislation provides unpaid family members leave upon deployment during a period of military conflict of a qualified family member. Current states having similar initiatives are Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York. Some states have pending legislation also: Hawaii and Wisconsin.

### *National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program*

Col. Allen Stark introduced the Commission to a program once run by the Missouri National Guard entitled Youth ChalleNGe Program but that Missouri is not currently participating in. Some states that are participating are Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Illinois. The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, a preventive rather than remedial at-risk youth program, targets participants who are unemployed, drug-free and law-free high-school dropouts, 16 to 18 years of age. Core components of the program are: citizenship, academic excellence (GED/high school diploma attainment), life-coping skills, service to community, health and hygiene, job skills training, leadership-followership and physical training. The Commission was in agreement to add this program to the Annual Report as one of the recommendations.

### **DVD-MCEC and The Whole Child, Robert Welling**

Robert Welling introduced to the Commission two DVD to be shown today. The first will be a production by Military Child Education Coalition and the second will be addressing the concept of Whole Child.

### *MCEC-Interactive Counseling Center*

MCEC has developed an Interactive Counseling Center (ICC) that is a web-based video conferencing system that allows families and educational counselors to exchange information between sending and receiving schools. The ICCs network has now connected schools that are serving the military communities all over the world. The ICC will provide "virtual counseling centers" to ensure transitioning students have a smooth hand-off from one school to another. The system will allow counselors, the student, and the parents to sit in a virtual counseling center and exchange information electronically to and from the

sending school and the receiving school. The Interactive Counseling Center is a video conferencing system incorporating Interactive Counseling Center units, which connect to one another via a networking system. The ICC includes both hardware and proprietary software, to enable point-to-point combined voice, video, data, and document image communications over the internet in real-time. The hardware is an easy-to-use video conference box that utilizes plug-and-play technology with a streamlined interface that is not only user friendly, but also secure.

### *The Whole Child*

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) proposes a broader definition of achievement and accountability that promotes the development of children who are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged-The Whole Child. The Learning Compact Redefined: A Call to Action, recommends a new compact with our young people. The Compact asks local, state, and national policymakers to ensure conditions that support comprehensive approaches to learning — for engaging the whole child. ASCD calls on parents, educators, policymakers, and communities to join forces to ensure our children become productive, engaged citizens. Our children deserve an education that emphasizes academic rigor as well as the essential 21st-century skills of critical thinking and creativity.

It asks that communities look at the whole picture and make sure that:

- Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.
- Each student learns in an intellectually challenging environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults.
- Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.
- Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.
- Each graduate is challenged by a well-balanced curriculum and is prepared for success in college or further study and for employment in a global environment.

Founded in 1943, ASCD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents more than 175,000 educators from 119 countries and nearly 60 affiliates who advocate sound policies and share best practices to achieve the success of each learner.

Kevin Stover added that there is an initiative currently within the Governor's office P20 headed up by former Workforce Development Director Rod Nunn. This program will assist the children of Missouri prepare for the growing industries of the future.

## **2007 Annual Report**

Chairman Dalton Wright introduced to the Commission the 2007 MMPEC Annual Report Draft for discussion. The Commission began reviewing the Report page by page. The following is a summary of all the changes to be made:

1. pg.2 correction in the spelling of DellaVedova
2. pg.3 add Kevin Stover to Staff
3. pg.3 eliminate the bullets to the Task Force meetings and put it in sentence form
4. pg.4 divide the recommendations between legislative and state agency action
5. pg.4 move legislation section up above the education and bold the legislative recommendations
6. pg.4 replace "take action" and "take action to provide" with ensure
7. pg.4 under education letter (1b) add the tuition waivers to be based on University of Missouri
8. pg.5 under education letter (2b) add awareness of resources
9. pg.5 under education letter (2d) Representative Terry Witte and Robert Welling will look further into
10. pg.5 replace "take action" and "take action to provide" with ensure
11. pg.5 under education letter (2k) add terminology to reenact the previous RSMo that was prior
12. pg.6 replace "take action" and "take action to provide" with ensure
13. pg.6 add two additional recommendations-school participation in Power of 11¢ and implementing the National Guard Youth Challenge program
14. pg.13 new addition to the report, a Legacy page listing out all the accomplishments of the Commission year to year, some of the items discussed to be listed: Stolen Valor Act, MCEC Conference, BRAC Summit, SB 22, HB 444, etc

## **New Business**

### *The Senior Tax Justice Act HB 444*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce passed out to the Commission an information brochure on HB 444. The new law eliminates Missouri's tax on any Social Security or Public Pension benefits for those who are 62 years and older. This includes: teachers, firefighters, police officers, veterans and other federal employees. Tax exemption will be applied to total income under \$85,000 for single taxpayers or \$100,000 for those married and will be reduced dollar for dollar for those incomes higher. Pension exemption is capped at the maximum Social Security income of \$32,500. The exemption will be phased over a six year span. Taxpayers may also deduct health insurance premiums not already deducted through federal return or cafeteria plans.

Vice Chair Representative Pearce also informed the Commission that the Johnson County group will be coming to the Capitol in April and again this year would like to meet with the Commission. We also will invite Friends of Fifty to the meeting. Ms. Zurkamer will assist in the arrangements.

### *Leonard Wood Institute*

The Leonard Wood Institute has awarded \$11,000,000 in funding for research and development (R&D) projects that will be carried out over the next year to benefit the U.S. Army's mission at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The funding will support twenty R&D projects that will begin work immediately in areas of interest to the Army that include chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defense preparedness, the detection and destruction of improvised explosive devices (IED's) and landmines, the development of better metallic and ceramic armors, improved sensor capabilities for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) and robots, better construction techniques for blast resistant structures, the rapid detection of underground tunnels, and the conversion of battlefield waste products, such as tires and plastics, to fuel and building materials.

### *Association of Defense Communities*

Ms. Zurkamer announced the Commission membership into the organization Association of Defense Communities. She informed all the Commission members data on ADC and their services are in their meeting packets along with our membership ID. Also the ADC has a weekly e-newsletter that gets sent to MMPEC@ded.mo.gov that she will forward to all members.

Chairman Dalton Wright informed the Commission of some budget concerns facing the Commission. He will be speaking with Department officials to try to remedy.

Chairman Dalton Wright opened the meeting to discussion on the next Commission meeting date. The Commission was in agreement that they would like to hold the next meeting in January in conjunction with the press conference with the Governor. Ms. Zurkamer will work with the Department and Governor's office to make necessary arrangements. The Commission also was in agreement that a conference call will be held on December 4, 2007 at 9 a.m. to finalize the Annual Report. Ms. Zurkamer will make the arrangements and send out the necessary information to all Commission members.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked for a motion to adjourn.

Kent Thomas moved, Jeff Bloemker seconded the motion to adjourn the November 7, 2007 MMPEC meeting. All approved, motion carried.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Minutes Approved:



Dalton Wright, Chair

20-February-2008

Date