

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission  
Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 2007  
Room 850 Harry Truman Building-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, Loretta Charleston, Kent Thomas, Robert Welling and Representative Terry Witte

Members Absent: Craig Borchelt and Senator Frank Barnitz

Guests in Attendance: Major Joe Della Vedova, Whiteman Air Force Base; Joe Driskill, Leonard Wood Institute; Larry Kay, Deputy Director of Missouri Veterans Commission; Pat Kerr, Ombudsman Missouri Veterans Commission; Alan Stark, Missouri National Guard; Rachel Wheeler, Whiteman Air Force Base Liaison; Warrensburg/Johnson County Day at the Capitol Group; Michael Nichols, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Kevin Stover, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Krista Zurkamer, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC February 28, 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 board members, supporting staff and guests made introductions.

### **Whiteman Air Force Base Reception**

An open discussion began about the success of the Whiteman Air Force Base Reception and the recommendations the Commission received. Chairman Dalton Wright thanked Rachel Wheeler, Robert Welling and the military members at Whiteman for their preparation and participation in the reception. There was an overwhelming agreement in the truly amazing level of candor of the enlisted officers and spouses.

Outreach has already begun with discovery into some of the recommendations received from Whiteman. DED has begun discussions with Revenue and Workforce Development to get some clarification on the recommendations falling under their divisions.

Robert Welling proposed a Task Force composed of legislators and volunteers be formulated to review the recommendations to perceive what is being addressed and/or what needs to be addressed.

The Commission was in agreement with Mr. Welling's sentiments that a Task Force would be effective. Chairman Wright added a standing Committee would be assembled operating within MMPEC and composed of representation of the legislation, Whiteman,

Fort Leonard Wood, MVC and DED. Kevin Stover added DED would formulate the recommendations in a tabulated form to aid the Committee in their work and allow for accountability. This Committee will meet via conference call in April to begin investigating the recommendations. Krista Zurkamer will follow up with the members of the Committee with further details.

Chairman Wright thanked Whiteman Air Force Base again for the invitation and commended General Biscone on the leadership he brings to Whiteman.

### **BRAC Summit, Loretta Charleston**

Loretta Charleston, Mike Nichols and Krista Zurkamer attended a BRAC Workforce Summit from January 9-11 in St. Louis. Some of the areas discussed at the Summit that would be noteworthy to the Commission were conceptual framework, one stop career centers, local workforce investment boards, WIRED-Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development and military spouses. The conceptual framework consists of three components: Define Regional Economy-Identify surrounding communities that share your economic structure, look beyond political boundaries; Create Leadership Group-Represent major assets of region, forum to craft a region wide economic vision and strategy; and Identify Resources of Support-Federal funds, look beyond Feds, challenge existing strategies. Some useful websites for service members wanting to utilize one stop career centers are [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org), [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org), [www.careervoyages.org](http://www.careervoyages.org) and [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov). The local Workforce Investment Boards will help to develop the communities array of assets, talent development and talent-economic growth. Some of the topics discussed in regards to WIRED were key strategic planning, economic asset mapping, regions economic vision, talent development strategy, public/private resource and planning grants. The highlighted topics for military spouses were state certification license challenges, unemployment benefits to spouses due to base relocation and employment boards. A useful website for military spouses is [www.milspouse.org](http://www.milspouse.org).

Discussion continued amongst the Commission about the Summit and how these topics are related to Missouri service members and their families. The Commission expressed interest in knowing what military initiatives are available and comparing these initiatives on a state to state basis. Pat Kerr informed the Commission the Missouri Veterans Commission has such a document of state to state military initiatives and would be happy to get copies for the Commission members. It is important for the Commission to know what is available in comparison state to state but also in house among all the state agencies and entities.

Chairman Dalton Wright noted it may be of interest to the Commission to invite these agencies to our meetings with updates for the Commission on their military programming. We could invite agencies such as Department of Revenue, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development.

Chairman Dalton Wright called for a lunch break at 11:50 p.m.

MMPEC meeting resumed at 1:25 p.m.

### **Warrensburg/Johnson County Day at the Capitol**

The Warrensburg/Johnson County Day at the Capitol joined the Commission for lunch and for the presentation by Leonard Wood Institute. Sandy Russell thanked the Commission for including them in the meeting plans for today and commended the Commission members for their dedication and positive work. Their organization takes an active approach when welcoming military members/units to their community. Within the Chamber is a Military Affairs Committee that continues to drive Warrensburg military friendly initiatives. They continue to have participation with the base community council in updating Whiteman with community issues: housing, schools, university, and business. Ms. Russell expressed their interest in continued work with Whiteman and the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission. Debbie Biscone thanked everyone in attendance for their commitment. Ms. Biscone expressed the military's' gratitude for the invitation and welcome to the Warrensburg community.

### **Leonard Wood Institute, Joe Driskill**

Leonard Wood Institute, LWI, is a tax-exempt, non-profit Missouri corporation formed in 2004 by Missouri Enterprise, the University of Missouri, Battelle, the Missouri Department of Economic Development and Boeing. It is designed to enable business, university and non-profit partners to collaborate with the military in meeting technology-related needs of the Army and DoD and, in so doing, leverage the growth of defense-related companies and the economy of the region and state. LWI reorganized in 2006; regional business, civic and academic leaders added to the board, with new emphasis on acquiring funding to initiate and manage research projects related to maneuver support and force protection. Current Status: Congress appropriated \$16.8 million to LWI in October (FY07); Working with Army Research Laboratory (ARL) on cooperative agreement to pull down funds; whitepaper submitted, full proposal to be submitted in March 2007; Engaged in concentrated effort with the Army to identify and prioritize Army S&T objectives at Fort Leonard Wood; Anticipating funds April-May 2007 timeframe (for 2 year term); currently hiring additional staff, expanding office, retaining 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity for grant administration; Anticipated timing for use of funds: S&T objectives agreed on by the Army and LWI; whitepaper submitted and approved; full proposal submitted during Q1 2007, Contract/agreement with ARL Q2 2007, LWI calls for project proposals Q3 2007, LWI selects projects and provides funding Q4 2007 through Q2 2008, and Projects monitored and completed Q4 2007-Q3 2009. Our desired outcomes: Contribute to DoD mission success at FLW and world-wide; Increase the value of FLW to the Army; Improve the ability of Missouri companies, non-profits and universities to respond to Army and DoD technology needs; Increase the number of companies able to provide technology solutions to the military; Encourage the commercialization of non-classified technologies; and Increase the economic impact of FLW and the military on the region and state. Our primary strategies: Identify and investigate promising new technologies that can be enhanced, adapted or applied to

support Army or DoD capability requirements; Initiate, award and manage project-based grants; Provide technical assistance and Phase “0” funding to early stage R&D companies; Promote, arrange and manage collaborations; Pursue additional projects & partners; generate income from fees and other sources to ensure long-term sustainability; and Identify and track the economic impact of LWI actions. Possible project criteria: Best solution for Army or DoD unmet science and technology needs; Leads to a military acquisition program and/or commercial market opportunity; Provides greatest economic impact for region; Current or future physical presence in region/state and Makes best use of LWI project resources. Benefits to the Army: New funding for priority projects will help save soldiers’ lives on the battlefield; Bring together collaborative of scientists/engineers who have key competencies, on an as-needed, quick-turn around basis to address unanticipated Army needs; LWI serve as an “intermediary” for the Army so that it can appropriately communicate its technology needs; Mechanism to seek additional funding, partners and projects in support of defined future S&T requirements; and LWI will coordinate, monitor and report on projects to reduce the Army’s administrative burdens. LWI partner benefits: Initial vetting of technologies /methodologies/capabilities; Ability to forge collaborations with other partner entities (companies, universities, agencies, federal labs, and others); Facilitate program manager and combat developer relationships, including the testing of products or processes; Better ability to track the procurement process; Provide supporting information to federal or state governments that can provide funding; Accelerate and demystify the government contracting process; and Provide appropriate introductions to military leaders. Key issues for LWI: Prioritize Army S&T objectives; carry out plan in a transparent, responsible way; Recruit, employ and/or contract with a small but capable team of individuals or organizations to support LWI’s work; Strengthen and/or establish partnerships with leaders at FLW-MANSCEN, WAFB, and other military organizations; Seek additional projects that address the mission-related technology requirements of the Army, Air Force (WAFB) and other military organizations and Ensure sustainable funding.

Chairman Dalton Wright thanked Mr. Driskill for his attendance and participation in today’s meeting. He thanked the Warrensburg/Johnson County participants also and wished them an enjoyable remainder to their day at the Capitol. Chairman Wright expressed the Commissions’ interest in continued work with both organizations-Leonard Wood Institute and Warrensburg/Johnson County.

The minutes from the November 29, 2006 were introduced and reviewed.

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce moved, Kent Thomas seconded the motion to accept the November 29, 2006 minutes as stands. All approved, motion carried.

After making a phone call for assistance Pat Kerr managed to get the documents she was discussing earlier about the military initiatives in the different states to the Commission. She added North Carolina and Michigan would be good examples of leading states with military friendly initiatives.

### **Resolution, Robert Welling**

In continuation from the last meeting Robert Welling introduced a new revised Resolution expressing the Commissions' support for fully funding the health care needs and related benefit programs for the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs with the considerations voiced at the last meeting. The Resolution is corroborated by a Newsweek article about the tremendous growing need for proper veteran health care and programming. The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission does hereby express support for full funding of the true health care needs and related benefit programs for the U.S Department for Veterans Affairs and does urge our Missouri Senators and each of our members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to unite and take the lead in aggressive action to courageously support such funding and by their unified voice to tell Missouri Veterans and U.S. Veterans worldwide that our Missouri Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. recognize that a grateful Nation must respond to the needs of our veterans who have served our country so valiantly.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked if there was a motion to adopt the resolution with said changes.

Robert Welling moved. Kent Thomas seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution with said amendments. All approved, motion carried.

Chairman Dalton Wright commended Mr. Welling's work and initiative on the Resolution.

Chairman Wright gave an update on the progress of securing a liaison for Fort Leonard Wood. Chairman Wright began to familiarize the Commission with Jill McCoy, Commander McCoy's wife, who sends her regards for her absence today as the Commissions' Fort Leonard Wood liaison.

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce and Representative Terry Witte gave the Commission a legislative update. They proceeded to discuss some of the bills current status and what their chances are for passing. Chairman Dalton Wright commended both Vice Chairman Representative Pearce and Representative Witte for their hard work and dedication to Veterans and Active Duty.

Rachel Wheeler thanked the Commission for her last meeting. Ms. Wheeler declared it an honor in working with the Commission and she only hopes Louisiana is as open to their military families.

The Commission thanked Ms. Wheeler for her dedication and service and wished her and her family safe travels and the best of luck.

General Larry Kay updated the Commission of the Fort Leonard Wood cemetery with the scheduled opening of July 08. Pat Kerr also handed out some additional materials of interest to the Commission. The materials included the mental health needs of returning soldiers and their families, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs education

programs, state veteran benefits across the map and a one page flyer about the Missouri Veterans Commission.

Chairman Dalton Wright opened the meeting to discussion on the next meeting date. There was a majority to having the next meeting after the close of the legislative session. The Commission also agreed with the Task Force Committee meeting in the between time and having a status report to the Commission at the next meeting. In agreement the Committee will have a conference call in April followed by a Commission meeting on May 23, 2007.

Kevin Stover updated the Commission on a new addition to the Department of Economic Development, Defense/Homeland Security Industry Specialist Bill McCoy. Mr. Stover proceeded to acquaint the Commission with the professional background of Mr. McCoy. Mr. McCoy will begin at DED within the next few weeks and will be working with the Commission in conjunction with Mike Nichols and Krista Zurkamer.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked for a motion to adjourn.

Kent Thomas moved. Representative David Pearce seconded the motion to adjourn the February 28, 2007 MMPEC meeting. All approved, motion carried.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Minutes Approved:



23-May-2007

Dalton Wright, Chair

Date