

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Wednesday, May 23, 2007**  
**GOB 316 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, Loretta Charleston, Kent Thomas, Robert Welling, and Representative Terry Witte

Members Absent: Craig Borchelt

Guests in Attendance: Major Joe Della Vedova, Whiteman Air Force Base; Larry Kay, Missouri Veterans Commission; Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard, Jeff Bloemeker, Smithville; Rodney Henry, Workforce Development; Don Rahm, Workforce Development; Mike Davis, Department of Revenue; Bob Hagerdorn, Chief of Staff Congressman Ike Skelton; Kevin Stover, Department of Economic Development, Bill McCoy, Department of Economic Development; Mike Nichols, Department of Economic Development and Krista Zurkamer, Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC May 23, 2007 meeting to order at 10:31 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 February 28, 2007 meeting were introduced and reviewed. Chairman Dalton Wright called for additions and/or corrections to the minutes.

Minute corrections included on page one the word purposed to change to proposed and on page two the spelling of Fort Leonard Wood would be corrected.

With said corrections Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve said minutes. Kent Thomas moved, Robert Welling seconded the motion to accept the February 28, 2007 minutes with said corrections. All approved, motion carried.

### **Guard at Home, Rodney Henry**

The Guard at Home program was created to assist the spouses of Missouri Guard and Reserve members who have been activated in defense of our country, and to assist those troops upon their return home. The Guard at Home program has been active since August 2006.

This program addresses immediate financial needs during deployment. It builds a path to employment for spouses while the primary income earner is on active duty deployment. This program also assists returning troops who need to rebuild their businesses, or whose jobs have been eliminated during deployment.

Services will be available in the Central, Ozark, Kansas City area, Westcentral, Southwest, Southeast and St. Louis County workforce regions, because of the high concentration of military and National Guard reservists located in these areas. See [www.ded.mo.gov/wfd](http://www.ded.mo.gov/wfd) for a map of Missouri's Workforce Regions.

Some of the services provided may include assistance paying daycare costs to pursue training and/or employment, assistance covering the costs of transportation to training and/or employment, vocational evaluation and counseling to help the individual choose a visible employment goal, vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be marketable in the workforce, paid internship and subsidized employment to train on the job, job placement assistance and financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from overdue bills due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse.

The Guard at Home program has been allocated \$300,000 in federal funding; the program has assisted three families to date. A problem facing the program is the briefing time of the returning soldiers; each soldier is briefed on the services of the Guard at Home program upon their return. Discussion continued about the program and when might be a better time to debrief the soldiers after their return.

### **BRAC, Don Rahm**

The state of Missouri is preparing for and assisting the workforces affected by BRAC. Missouri is looking at a workforce of about 800 people within the next year that will be affected by BRAC; the two regional areas affected will be Kansas City and St. Louis. Missouri is also looking at around 2000 people being affected by the Human Resource Command moving from St. Louis to Kentucky in 2009; although funds have yet to be secured.

Missouri has received some federal funding in support of its planning and assistance. Workforce Development has a \$1million Planning Grant to which is being utilized currently in Kansas City and St. Louis to assist the 800 people being affected this year. This \$1million is being used towards the surveying of the current employees, MERIC regional employment studies, and programs and services.

Many of the current affected employees are utilizing the services offered by Division Workforce Development, DWD. Many employees are looking into comparable job placements in the region and what, if any, additional training or education may be needed. MERIC has done some incredible regional research and are able to aide the employees to what are the high paying and needed positions for their region. There are few employees of the HRC soliciting the services of DWD at this time but the DWD does plan on conducting the same programming for them.

Some of the additional services available to the employees are skills identification, interviewing tips, application process, telephone techniques, comprehensive assessments, individual counseling and career planning.

Additionally the DWD received a \$15 million grant for the Kansas City area to be shared with Kansas in the training of growing job fields. The funding will be administered over a three year period in increments of \$5 million. Some of the labor markets being explored are healthcare, advanced manufacturing and biotechnology.

The Commission continued to discuss the impact of the closing of the HRC. A consensus was made about sending correspondence to the Armed Service Committee voicing the support of the Commission in the HRC remaining in Missouri. Krista Zurkamer will make further arrangements for this correspondence.

### **Taxes and the Military, Mike Davis**

Mike Davis sends the regrets of Jim Brentlinger who was scheduled to speak to the Commission but was unexpectedly called to a meeting. Mr. Davis went over with the Commission what tax forms were to be filed by military service members. A good resource is located on the departments website where someone can be linked to what forms are required in filing in the state of Missouri.

Discussion continued about the service members concerns with the length of the form and the time frequencies of submittal. Changing the frequency of the filing would require a legislative initiative but this change would impact the state fiscally. The department would be willing to work on the form streamlining it to better suit the needs of the military and the department.

The department is open to meeting with representatives to field possible changes to the current form; the Commission will address a letter to the Department of Revenue expressing its support in streamlining the current form. The Commission will also include recommendations of this streamlining. Bill McCoy has made some progress already with revenue and volunteered to take the lead in the ongoing efforts of streamlining the tax form.

Mr. Davis also wanted to inform the Commission of some pending legislation that would effect military retirement. HB 434 addresses some changes to the social security retirement systems; among the impacted would be military retirement pay.

Chairman Dalton Wright thanked all the guest speakers today for their contributions to our meeting today and voiced the Commissions appreciation for their ongoing support towards our service members and veterans.

Chairman Wright called for a lunch break at 11:56 p.m.

MMPEC meeting resumed at 12:31 p.m.

Chairman Dalton Wright thanked our new guest for joining us today, Chief of Staff for Congressman Ike Skelton, Robert Hagerdorn. Chairman Wright thanked Congressman

Skelton and Mr. Hagerdorn for their ongoing support and efforts in improving the lives of service members in the state of Missouri.

Robert Hagerdorn thanked Chairman Wright and the Commission for the warm welcome and their efforts and services to the state of Missouri.

### **Legislative Update**

The Commission began to discuss the legislative updates of the items of interest to the Commission. Some of the issues discussed were military retirement pay, stolen valor, fast track teacher certification, and senior student requirements for graduation. The Commission agreed to continue next year with the items remaining and add the new items of interest.

Discussion continued on the progression of the funding for Fort Knox on the federal level and what if any should be the plans of the Commission in response to the scheduled move of the HRC. Mr. Hagerdorn added he wasn't aware of any funding being allocated to Fort Knox for the building of new facilities to house the HRC. He agreed with the Commission on contact the Armed Service Committee voicing their concerns and support of HRC remaining in Missouri. A delegation to the Senators of Missouri may be something to be considered by the Commission also he suggested.

### **Quality of Life Task Force, Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce**

The Commission reviewed the spreadsheet created by Krista Zurkamer of the current recommendations received from Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base. The Commission discussed the current standings of the recommendations and what future actions should be by the Commission. It was agreed some of the issues should be addressed as an action item for 2008. An ongoing item of importance is the ability of service members to vote in school board elections; the Commission agreed to investigate this issue and devise additional routes for the Commission. The Military Child Education Coalition Annual Conference will be hosting in July in Kansas City. The Commission agreed to participate in the conference. The Quality of Life Task Force will meet again in a month and continue its progression of the recommendations and report to the Commission at the next meeting.

Kevin Stover introduced to the Commission a new member to the staff at DED, Bill McCoy Homeland Security/Defense Industry Specialist. Bill McCoy gave a brief biography of himself. He offered his services to the Commission and expressed his excitement in working with the Commission in the future.

Krista Zurkamer passed out some materials left by Larry Kay from the Veterans Commission.

Rosencranz has offered an orientation flight for the Commission. The Commission discussed the invitation and some possible dates for the flight and planning a meeting in

conjunction with the flight. The Commission agreed July 25, 2007 would be a good date and asked Krista Zurkamer to make the arrangements with Col. Mike McEnulty.

Chairman Dalton Wright presented MMPEC member Loretta Charleston a certificate of excellence for her dedication and contributions to MMPEC. Ms. Charleston's term on the MMPEC has ended and the Commission would like to extend congratulations on her recognition and express she will be missed.

Loretta Charleston thanked Chairman Wright and thanked all the Commission members for their contributions to the service members of Missouri. Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce presented MMPEC member Robert Welling a Central Dairy Resolution for his ongoing contributions to the Jefferson City economy and Central Dairy. The Commission thanks Mr. Welling for his ice cream treats.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked for a motion to adjourn.

Kent Thomas moved, Representative David Pearce seconded the motion to adjourn the May 23, 2007 MMPEC meeting. All approved, motion carried.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved:



25 July 2007

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Dalton Wright, Chair

Date