

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Commission Meeting**  
**September 6, 2006**  
**Boeing Future Combat Systems, St. Louis**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending: Dalton Wright, Rep. David Pearce, Craig Borchelt, Loretta Charleston, Kent Thomas, Bob Welling, Sen. Frank Barnitz, Rep. Terry Witte, Mike Nichols

Others attending: Aaron Washburn, Senator Koster's Legislative Staff, Alan Stark, Missouri National Guard

Chairman Wright opened the meeting and thanked Mr. Borchelt and Boeing for the time and effort they put into hosting the meeting. Mr. Borchelt introduced Doug Stuart of Boeing's Future Combat Systems who gave a short overview of their program.

Minutes from May 24, 2006 meeting were introduced. **Mr. Welling moved, Mr. Thomas seconded motion to accept the May 24, 2006 minutes. Motion Approved.**

**Report from Military Dependent's Education Task Force – Kent Thomas**

Mr. Thomas reported on work the task force has done since last meeting.

The task force has developed a brochure entitled "*Tips for Servicemember Parents of School Age Children in Missouri.*" The information in the brochure isn't anything new; it just wasn't being communicated to those who needed it very well. These were sent out to school districts in the Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base areas. The task force plans to let these school districts use the brochures for the fall semester and then meet with them to discuss what works and what improvements need to be made to the brochure. They also suggested that we send a copy of the brochure to the Missouri Veteran's Commission.

It was suggested by various members of the Commission that a date should be added to the front of the brochure. This will reduce the confusion concerning outdated information when it is revised.

Mr. Borchelt reported that he has talked to various people that work outside of the military that are encountering the same problems discussed in the brochure when they move into the area.

Mr. Thomas reported that school districts that are closer to Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base seem to have a better understanding of the issues; it just wasn't being communicated very well to those who needed it.

Rep. Pearce suggested that copies of the brochure be sent to Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base to be distributed to new arrivals on the bases. Chairman Wright discussed getting this information to the base commanders and asking them to add it to the orientation information for new arrivals.

Mr. Welling suggested distributing the brochure information to the base newspapers as a way of getting the word out.

Mr. Thomas also suggested that the Commission could have the Missouri School Board Association send a copy of the brochure to local school districts in the state.

Mr. Welling discussed the issue of voting for local school boards. He researched Federal Impact Aid for school districts and found that Knob Noster receives 43.36% and Waynesville 41.66% of their budgets in Federal Impact Aid. Most school districts throughout the state receive 9.5%. This means that the Federal Impact Aid is very important to these school districts. He suggests that we ask legislators to look at the proposed language we discussed in our last meeting that would allow local service members to vote in local school board elections. He recognizes that there will be some who are not interested, but some are and want to have an active role in their children's education by being part of the local school district.

Mr. Thomas stated that local school districts might have a problem with this idea.

Mr. Welling stated that his understanding is the local school board doesn't want to have someone appointed to their board by the base commanders and doesn't think they would have a problem with the language he proposed at the last commission meeting.

Rep. Pearce reminded the commission that the last time this was discussed we didn't involve the local school districts and suggests working with them on these issues.

Chairman Wright stated that we also need to look at the impact of increased state funding for Missouri school districts before we set a bench mark percentage in the suggested legislation.

Mr. Welling suggested that another route we could take is to work with the Federal Government and have them tie a similar law to Federal Impact Aid.

**Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Borchelt seconded the motion to first approach Knob Noster and Waynesville School Districts to give them a chance to comment about the issue before legislative research is began on the proposed language.**

**Mr. Thomas withdrew his motion.**

This issue was tabled until later meeting.

Chairman Wright suggested that we look at hosting an education seminar at both bases and we discuss this at our October meeting.

**Report on contracting with consulting firm – Chairman Dalton Wright**

Chairman Wright asked what the best way would be to get a listing of consulting firms that work with BRAC issues. He suggested contacting congressional staff. Also discussed that there are some who do not believe there will be another BRAC, but given that it is still a possibility, we want to be in the best position possible to be prepared. Reminded us that in the 1990's, the State didn't spend very much money to prepare itself for that BRAC and almost lost Ft. Leonard Wood. He stated that we should develop a framework of action to bring a consultant on board to assist us in the next BRAC. He discussed looking at shared funding with the Department of Economic Development (DED), Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB), and the local organizations attached to Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base.

Mr. Borchelt suggested that we look at this as an opportunity to add to the state not just maintain. He reminded us that Kansas gained from us because we weren't prepared. He suggested that we look at what states were successful in gaining in the last BRAC and see who they used as a consultant.

Mr. Welling asked how we would plan to obtain the names of these consultants, do we need to set parameters, and who is going to direct the consultant.

Chairman Wright stated that we would need a representative committee. He agreed that the RFP would be complicated with various issues we need to make sure are covered, such as looking at Army and Air Force issues.

Mr. Welling discussed the possibility of receiving funding from the legislature.

Rep. Pearce responded that the commission needs to have some specific costs for the consultant and what we would receive from the Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base areas as matching funds. He stated that we need to get a better idea of total cost.

Mr. Borchelt stated that the Army may have difficulty making the moves from the last BRAC because the funding is not sufficient. He suggests that we look at helping the military focus on how we can save them money and we may be able to regain some of our losses.

Chairman Wright asked if we want to move forward with a list of consultants.

**Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Borchelt seconded the motion to move forward with pursuing a list of consultants to attract business and additional military to Missouri. Motion approved.**

**Discussion on increasing meeting to bi-monthly – Chairman Dalton Wright**

Chairman Wright discussed having a meeting in November. The commission agreed and one was scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City.

**Report on Website – Chairman Dalton Wright**

Chairman Wright asked for input on what should be on the commission website. Ms. Charleston brought printouts of the website and discussed what was on each page. Members agreed to add the brochure *Tips for Servicemember Parents of School Age Children in Missouri* be added. Mr. Nichols was tasked with seeing what other websites had links to our page. Commission members agreed to add section asking for businesses with military contracts to contact us.

### **Report on review of 2005 Annual Report – Chairman Dalton Wright**

This was tabled until the October meeting.

### **Other Business and New Business**

Mr. Welling asked if the commission would be interested in having a member from the Armed Services Committee come and talk with us about new defense allocation. Members agreed they would be interested in hearing about this information. Mr. Welling is going to set this up for either October's or November's meeting.

Rep. Pearce suggested that we bring in someone from Washington D.C. who works with the Department of Defense (DOD) to update them on what we have done and the state and see how DOD perceives Missouri.

Mr. Welling discussed the issue of payday loans for military persons. Rep. Graves and Sen. Talent are proposing Federal legislation to protect the service members. He asked about possible legislation within the state. Mr. Washburn responded that Missouri has limited oversight on these businesses. It depends on where their head quarters are located as to whether the state has oversight authority.

Chairman Wright tabled discussion on meet with military bases to discuss holding hearing concerning education issues and sending letters asking for advice from School Superintendents about these same issues until October meeting.

Chairman Wright asked Rep. Pearce and Mr. Welling to meeting with the Knob Noster School Districts to discuss three talking points concerning education. Chairman Wright and Sen. Barnitz will do the same in the Waynesville school district.

The talking points are:

1. Perception among military families is they are not fairly represented on or by their school boards. This came from comments made at hearings throughout the state.
2. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) data shows that over 40% of local budget comes from Federal Impact Aid in the Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood areas.
3. We are looking for ways to ensure better representation for Military families.

Mr. Stark reported that the Missouri Veteran's Commission is also very interested in the education issues that we have been working on and asked him to keep them updated with our progress. Mr. Stark also reported that Missouri National Guard troop strength is now at 106%. There also is a cut back on troops deployed outside of Missouri.

**Next Meeting**

Next regular meeting will be held October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Governor's Office Building, Room 460, in Jefferson City. Topics for discussion during that meeting will include the website, annual report, and funding for consultant.

The next meeting after that will be held November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in Jefferson City.

**Adjourn**

**Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Welling 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Approved:



18-October-2006

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Dalton Wright, Chair

Date