

Maryland Military Installation Council

2021 Annual Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE §11-207

Submitted by:

Maryland Department of Commerce

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Maryland Military Installation Council

2021 Annual Report

In accordance with the Economic Development Article §11-207, this document constitutes the annual report of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) for calendar year 2021. The MMIC continues to be a forum for Maryland military installations, defense communities, defense businesses, State agencies and elected officials to dialogue on issues associated with Maryland's military installations. Recognizing the nation is in a constantly turbulent defense spending environment, the MMIC remains focused on the Department of Defense budget impacts, mission alignment and basing decisions, potential Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activity, and relevant issues among the Maryland military installations, associated defense communities, and supporting defense industry.

The MMIC met twice in 2021. The May 24th meeting was virtual, conducted on the Microsoft Teams Live Event Platform. The October 4th meeting was live, held at the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development building at 100 Community Place in Crownsville. The May 24th meeting was chaired by the Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary, Ms. Kelly Schulz, and directed by MMIC Executive Director, Ms. Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director for the Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA). On behalf of Secretary Schulz, Ms. Swoboda chaired and directed the October 4th meeting. OMFA continues to provide direct support and coordinates all actions associated with the MMIC.

MMIC Meetings Summary:

The Council heard from featured speakers and panelists at each meeting, with several updates on programs relevant to the health and well-being of Maryland's military installations and defense communities. (Greater detail is provided in the attached respective meeting minutes.)

May 24th:

- Mr. Chris Arnold, DoD Northeast Region Defense Liaison, provided an overview of the Defense State Liaison Office and several legislative issues.
- Secretary Schulz provided an overview of the Maryland COVID-19 response with economic impacts and outlook.
- Mr. Dan Nega, Avian Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, discussed the need for continued STEM outreach initiatives from our installations.
- Ms. Ashley Jones, IntelliGenesis, addressed the need to develop a Data Science curriculum in Maryland schools.
- Representative Anthony Brown, 4th District Maryland, discussed several current military installation issues from his perspective as the Vice Chair of the House Armed Services Committee.
- Ms. Christy Kenady, Serving Together Program Director, discussed her non-profit organization's mission to connect those who serve with community services.

October 4th:

- Ms. Lisa Swoboda, MMIC Executive Director, reviewed information provided by Chris Arnold, Northeast Region Defense State Liaison Office on DoD legislative priorities for the State of Maryland, to include support for the Purple Star Schools program and license portability for military spouses. Potential upcoming issues include concurrent jurisdiction for military family juveniles, and employment protection for National Guard members working in Maryland but living in another state.
- Ms. Katie Kilby, Program Director for the non-profit Serving Together, expanded on information presented in the virtual May 24th meeting. This organization connects service members and military families with community services in Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C. and 12 counties in Maryland.
- Mr. Eric Spillman, Spillman Technologies, reviewed project organization and deliverables for the Maryland Compatible Use technical guidebook and website.
- Mr. Patrick Small, Matrix Design Group, reviewed the in-progress Maryland Compatible Use Energy Siting Study.
- Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger, 2nd District Maryland, provided comments on congressional issues and contemporary national affairs.

At both of the 2021 meetings:

- The military installation garrison and station commanders informed the MMIC of local, state and federal issues impacting their installations and associated defense communities, and reviewed significant upcoming events at their installations.
- Representatives from the seven military alliances offered overviews of their alliance activities and engagement with their respective installations.
- Congressional staff representing Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Representatives Mfume, Harris and Ruppertsberger commented and participated in the discussion.
- State agency directors, or their representatives, provided comments and perspective on many of the programs and issues discussed.

Findings and Recommendations:

As in previous years it is clear that Maryland must remain vigilant in the face of defense budget instability, and potential BRAC activity or mission relocation. Engagement from all Maryland stakeholders is necessary to avoiding losing military missions, which equates to jobs and payroll, contracts, and ultimately huge State and regional economic impacts. Likewise, the State must position itself to take advantage of opportunities, whenever they present themselves, to preserve and increase the federal defense footprint in Maryland.

- All installations, with support from the alliances and surrounding defense communities are executing their missions despite COVID-19 pandemic impacts.
- As much of the workforce returns from work-at-home status, child care capacity is a continuing problem at several of the installations and surrounding communities.

- Workforce shortages, especially with regard to technical and cyber skills, persist throughout all Maryland installations' workforce and supporting defense industries. The MMIC workforce committee, with support from other Maryland state agencies, must continue to support and encourage a variety of initiatives to improve recruitment and retention of a highly skilled workforce.
- Continued engagement with our federal partners and financial support of our seven military alliances are both essential to maintaining the estimated \$60 billion economic impact of our Maryland military installations.

The minutes of the May 24th and October 4th 2021 meetings follow.

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, May 24, 2021; 10:00–12:45

MS Teams Live Event (Virtual)

Meeting Minutes

The May 2021 MMIC meeting was conducted using the Microsoft Teams Live Event platform.

The session was scheduled to include remarks from several guest speakers, updates from the Maryland installation commanders and their corresponding alliance presidents, plus the Maryland National Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers. Because many participants experienced some connectivity difficulties, the meeting actually started about 10:15 am. The virtual MMIC meeting had 125 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs provided opening remarks and a review of the agenda. Ms. Swoboda acknowledged that this will probably be the last virtual MMIC meeting, with return to a live meeting in September.

Ms. Swoboda provided an update on the Statewide Compatible Use Implementation initiative, with reference to the project overview website at <https://commerce.gov/compatibleuse>, and point of contact Sarah Diehl sarah.diehl@maryland.gov.

Chris Arnold, DoD Northeast Liaison

Upon introduction by Ms. Swoboda, Mr. Arnold provided a brief overview of the mission of the Defense State Liaison Office, and his recent activities with Maryland. He has met with seven of the installation commanders, discussing military child advocacy issues, four occupational interstate licensing compacts, and expediting military spouse licensure within 30 days. Mr. Arnold's charts will be posted for review.

Ms. Swoboda then introduced the MMIC Chair, Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz, for welcoming remarks.

Secretary Schulz

- Reviewed the status of COVID-19 response in Maryland. The number of vaccinations continues to increase, while the number and severity of COVID cases continues to decline.
- The Maryland economy is recovering quickly, and many business relief grants are still available. The Governor and Department of Commerce continue to focus on setting conditions for stimulus and growth.
- During 2020 Maryland issued \$135M in loans and grants to small businesses, and after expending the \$135M, it was increased to \$200M. Commerce moved \$75M initially intended for loans, to grants. Maryland also granted \$5M for support of the manufacturing of PPE.
- Sec. Schulz noted the Department of Commerce recently received a \$1.1M federal grant to continue the Defense Cybersecurity Assistance Program (DCAP), which assists Maryland companies in achieving compliance with federal cybersecurity guidelines.

Defense Workforce Preparedness

Ms. Swoboda introduced two speakers to address workforce preparedness issues:

Dan Nega, VP Strategic Initiatives, AVIAN

Mr. Nega discussed the need for continued STEM Outreach, with a theme of “What Goes on Behind the Fence,” alluding to the lack of awareness in the local community about the workforce skills and capabilities needed to fill many of the jobs on the installation. To foster this awareness, he has worked with NAS PAX to produce a Discovery Channel quality video of the PAX workforce in action. Mr. Nega showed the video. He recommends the MMIC to engage on a statewide level with a strategic plan which would encompass all the Maryland installations and address the question of “What goes on behind those fences.”

Ashley Jones, IntelliGenesis

Ms. Jones, filling in for CEO Angie Lienert, addressed a need and opportunity to develop a Data Science curriculum in Maryland schools. She noted over 100,000 data science jobs available in National Capital Region, as well as the difficulty experienced by Maryland companies in filling data science positions.

Installation Commander Updates

Maryland National Guard – BG Adam Flasch, Joint Staff Director, MD National Guard

- The MDNG has been supporting vaccine distribution. In addition to supporting state vaccination sites, such as at Six Flags, they have deployed 15 mobile vaccination teams.
- The MDNG has also responded to multiple organizations impacted by cyberattacks.
- The MDNG supported the National Capital response to the 6 Jan event with 880 soldiers.
- In addition to the COVID and cyberattack response, the MDNG has also participated in multiple worldwide deployments.
- As MDNG soldiers return from COVID response, they will refresh on annual training and continue to focus on priority lines of effort and remain mission-ready.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Timothy Druell, Garrison Commander

- This will be COL Druell’s last MMIC. His change of command is scheduled for 23 June.
- The campaign to demolish and remove contaminated infrastructure on APG South remains funded and is proceeding on schedule. As these old buildings come down, the vacant space will posture APG South for growth.

Fort Detrick – COL Dexter Nunnally, Garrison Commander

- This will be COL Nunnally’s last MMIC. His change of command is scheduled for 15 July.
- Ft. Detrick is implementing the new mask guidance, and anticipates return soon to HPCON A.
- Continuing water negotiations with Frederick County.
- The new construction of the USAMRIID BSL 3/4 facility continues.
- A proposed new steam sterilization facility is competing for MILCON funding. Meanwhile, with the closure of our incineration facility, USAMRIID has been transporting regulated medical waste for contract destruction, rather than incinerating locally.
- The Garrison is planning for a community-wide Labor Day softball tournament.

- Current challenges are enforcement of adherence to mask guidance, and anticipated budget cuts to garrison operations.

Fort Meade – COL Chris Nyland, Garrison Commander

- There is continued growth at Ft. Meade. At 67,000 Ft. Meade has the largest workforce in Maryland, and 2nd largest in the Army,
- Recently cased the colors of the Asymmetric Working Group (AWG), and welcomed the 7th Signal Command.
- COVID cases continue to drop. Ft. Meade is gradually reopening and returning to normal operations. The pools reopened this weekend.
- The Ft. Meade garrison is teaming with Ann Arundel County on assisting transitioning servicemen and spouses.
- The Ft. Meade garrison recently hosted a conference on Intergovernmental Support Agreements, to capitalize on local public sector capabilities. Follow-up on actions from that conference continue.
- COL Nyland expressed gratitude to the Fort Meade Alliance for their gift of the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center, and the associated resiliency kiosks.

At this point Ms. Swoboda interrupted the scheduled sequence and introduced Rep. Anthony Brown.

Representative Anthony Brown, 4th District, Maryland

- Rep. Brown is a retired Reserve Army officer, former MD Lt. Governor, 3rd term 4th District congressman, and currently Vice Chair of the House Armed Services Committee.
- Rep. Brown stated that he values the interaction with the installation commanders and alliance presidents in preparation for NDAA markups and other defense-related issues.
- We can expect a flat defense budget. The 1.7% increase will probably keep pace with inflation, but within the overall Defense budget there will be changes in allocations resulting in winners and losers. There is concern that the Army may be a bill payer for the other services.
- Rep. Brown requested to hear from the Alliance Presidents on their top issues.
- He thanked everybody for the updates, and reiterated that the entire Maryland delegation is supportive of the alliances and their advocacy.
- In closing, Rep. Brown indicated that we can expect opportunities for earmarks for both MILCON and RTD&E projects.

Ms. Swoboda adjusted the agenda to jump to the alliance presidents.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Fort Detrick Alliance – Jen Staiger, President

- Ft. Detrick Alliance will host its first in-person networking event at Big Cork Vineyards on 16 Jun.
- There is a joint event planned for August with the local AUSA chapter.
- The alliance has included a representative from Montgomery County on the board of directors.
- Current alliance priorities include upgrades to the Rosemont Avenue intersection, and an increase in visibility of job opportunities.

Fort Meade Alliance – Doreen Harwood, President

- The FMA top priority is the \$3.6M Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center project and the associated Resiliency Kiosks.
- The FMA will sponsor two upcoming events:
 - 10 June Resiliency Round Table with the commanders of the Garrison and Kimbrough Health Clinic
 - 16 Jun in-person Annual Meeting event
- The FMA membership is at an all-time high of 273, which enables the Alliance’s various education and community support programs

Army Alliance – Sue Nappi, Executive Director (for Tony Lisuzzo, President)

- Army Alliance legislative priorities include continued funding for the Army Facilities Reduction Program to support to completion of the contaminated facilities reduction program on APG South.
- The Army Alliance is requesting increased funding for the pilot scale synthetic bio-fermentation facility at the Chemical Biological Center, which will be unique in the U.S., and provide educational opportunities.
- The Alliance is also supporting a community request for funding of the Discovery Center initiative.
- The first live event will be the Army Alliance Annual Dinner Meeting on 7 Jun.

Maritime Technology Alliance – Ivan Caplan, President

- The MTA is requesting congressional support to increase Section 2363 funding to support in-house R&D at military labs from 2% to 3%.
- Also requesting support for the Shipyard Act (SIOP), which would provide \$21B/20 years to recapitalize the Navy’s four public 100 year-old shipyards, including an additional \$4B for private shipyards.
- The MTA will attempt to generate Navy interest in using Trade Point Atlantic for ship building and maintenance.

Military Alliance Council – Pam Frank, Executive Director

- NSWC Indian Head needs funding for:
 - An environmentally compliant energetics incineration facility.
 - Advancement of Undersea and Arctic research.
 - An energetics pilot manufacturing facility.
- The MAC will support the installation’s 100th year anniversary celebration on 25 Sep, which has been delayed from last year.
- NSWC Indian Head is working in close collaboration with the FBI, DHS, the MAC and industry, including the USBTA, ARA, and 32 more interested businesses.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance – Gary Kessler, President

- The SMNA is engaged in a workforce initiative titled “Southern Maryland 2030.”
- Supporting energy resiliency (ERCIP) projects and DCIP projects.
- Promoting connectivity between NAS PAX and USMSM, Tech Bridge, Airport and the UMD UAS Test Site.

- Anticipate new mission space because of reallocating space on the installation and Lab Revitalization Program authority of \$6-12M.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance – James Estepp, Director

- Discussed Alliance support and advocacy for F-35 basing at Joint Base Andrews
- Coordinating with Prince Georges County Public Schools to re-open on-base schools to in-person learning
- As usual, supporting Col. Schaff and the JBA leadership.

Continued Installation Commander Updates

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – CAPT Todd Copeland, Commander, NSA South Potomac

- The installation is currently at HPCON B, and has reopened all military family and retiree services.
- NSWC Indian Head has a mission critical need for a new burn facility.
- The new Community Planning and Liaison Officer (CPLO) is Thomas Hastings.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Todd Hutchinson, Commanding Officer

- NSWC Carderock is supporting several installation and community STEM events.
- The bi-annual International Submarine Races, normally conducted in the Carderock facilities will be virtual this year.
- NSWC Carderock, despite COVID, has been able to continue the major internship program with students from high schools and colleges.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Scott Switzer, Commanding Officer

- The installation is currently at HPCON B, with masks still required at the hospital.
- Major MILCON continues with construction of a new hospital building.
- The Uniformed Services University has funding needs for expansion of classrooms and renovation of R&D facilities.
- The underground crossing from the Metro station under MD Route 355 is nearly complete; scheduled to open July 21st.
- With the updated Maryland beltway upgrade plans, NSA Bethesda is no longer impacted.
- The Jones Bridge/Connecticut Avenue project to relieve rush hour traffic congestion needs support.

Patuxent Naval Air Station – CAPT John Brabazon, Commander

- The upgrade to the Entry Control Point at Gate 3 is now funded at \$5.89M.
- NAS PAX is at 100% of mission operations.
- Working to bring food and beverage service onto the installation.
- Converting the conference center building into a childcare facility to alleviate the 80-child waiting list for school age children.
- Will support 22 April visit from new Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks.

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – CAPT Homer Denius, Commander

- CAPT Denius had to drop off for USNA graduation activities. His slides will be posted.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commander

- A MDNG medical team supported vaccination of the CGY workforce.
- Waterfront construction for a new dry-dock, enabled by FY16 funds, is continuing on schedule, and has worked through most of the unknowns.
- The scheduled maintenance workload is heavy and continues unabated.
- The Coast Guard Yard has been able to use the same contractor used for a Navy Optimization 2050 Study, to improve efficiency at the Yard.

Joint Base Andrews – Col. Tyler Schaff, 316th Wing and Installation Commander

- The JBA workforce is 60% vaccinated. JBA continues support for the Greenbelt vax site.
- JBA has \$900M for runway improvements and the new Presidential aircraft in progress.
- The UH-1 airframes will be replaced with the MH-139 Grey Wolf.
- JBA is competing for the KC-46 refueling home basing decision.
- Air Show and STEAM event planned for 16-18 Sep 2022 for the USAF 75th anniversary.

Army Corps of Engineers – LTC Geoffrey Kuhlmann, Deputy Commander Baltimore District

- COL Litz, Baltimore District Commander, will depart in July.
- The Baltimore District workload continues to be heavy. The headquarters will be impacted by multiple senior-level retirements.
- Currently performing barrier work in the NCR.
- Currently lots of work for the intelligence community in the region.
- Planning transition of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to the Beltsville site is on schedule.

Outreach and Support

Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Outreach, Transition and Economic Development, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, had to drop from the call. Ms. Rawls' Veterans Services Outreach presentation will be scheduled for the next MMIC.

Christy Kenady

Ms. Swoboda introduced Christy Kenady, Program Director for Serving Together, a nonprofit with the mission to connect those who served with services in their community. The program is a one-stop-shop network serving all military, veterans, families and caregivers in the Central Maryland region. The organization covers Northern Virginia, Washington, DC and 12 counties in Maryland. Ms. Kenady can be contacted at ckenady@every-mind.org.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for their participation, and encouraged follow-up interaction. Expect the next MMIC to be a live event in September. The session adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 05.24.2021

MMIC Slides 05.24.2021

MMIC Attendee List 05.24.2021

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, October 4, 2021; 09:00 – 12:00

Meeting Minutes

The fall 2021 MMIC meeting was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included updates from the Maryland installation commanders and the Maryland National Guard, remarks from guest speakers and Congressman Ruppertsberger, and updates from the alliance presidents. Total attendance was 82.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs welcomed attendees to the “live” meeting and provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda. She acknowledged that MMIC Chair and Secretary of Commerce Kelly Schulz had to cancel at the last minute. Ms. Swoboda commented on several issues:

- Reviewed information from Chris Arnold, the northeast region Defense State Liaison Officer for DoD:
 - DoD legislative priorities for the State of Maryland in the upcoming session to include the passage of two previously introduced bills to support the adoption of the Purple Star Schools Program and to provide license portability for military spouses and active-duty members.
 - Forthcoming legislative priorities for DoD that are currently being socialized to include concurrent jurisdiction for military family juveniles and employment protections for National Guard members working in Maryland but living outside of the state.

Installation Commander Updates – Air Force, National Guard, Army

Joint Base Andrews – Col Tyler Schaff, 316th Wing and Installation Commander

- JBA has issues with drones over the installation and in the airspace. The complex flight profiles and times of day suggest other than recreational drone operators, so this is a major security issue.
- The installation is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to scope a 100-year flood plain study, required for new construction.
- An Air Show and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) event for 10,000 students is planned for 16-18 Sep 2022, for the USAF 75th anniversary.

Maryland National Guard – BG Adam Flasch, Joint Staff Director, MD National Guard

- The MDNG is still busy supporting COVID response with vaccine distribution and mobile vaccination teams.
- The MDNG has unique cyber defense and military intelligence capabilities and has supported multiple organizations impacted by cyberattacks.
- MDNG maintains international partnerships and joint training with Estonia and Bosnia.
- In addition to the COVID and cyberattack response, the MDNG has also participated in multiple worldwide deployments and is prepared and available for civil defense contingencies.

Fort Meade – COL Chris Nyland, Garrison Commander

- At 67,000 military and civilian employees on-base, Ft. Meade has the largest workforce in Maryland, 2nd largest in the Army, and continues to grow.
- The installation recently welcomed the 7th Signal Command and expects an additional increase of 4,000 new personnel over the next few years. Additionally, the workforce in off-post office parks will move onto Ft. Meade over several years, increasing the on-post growth by +7,000, which generates the necessity of traffic and access improvements now. \$4B in construction projects on the installation over the next 6 years is programmed to enable this growth. Good partnerships with BGE and other utilities will support this construction and growth.
- COL Nyland again expressed gratitude to the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation for their gift of the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center, and the associated resiliency kiosks.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander

- This is COL Casiano's first MMIC meeting since assuming command in June.
- APG is 6th largest employer in MD. However, with less than 1000 active duty on-post, and 50% of the workforce working remotely, many of the MWR services, largely dependent on foot traffic, are underused and in danger of being reduced.
- The campaign to demolish and remove contaminated infrastructure on APG South has completed Phase I and begun Phase II, which is currently funded through 2028, and proceeding on schedule. As these old buildings come down, the vacant space will posture APG South for growth.
- The Skippers Point area of Edgewood will also be available for future development.

Fort Detrick – COL Danford Bryant II, Garrison Commander

- COL Bryant has been in command since mid-July. This is his first MMIC meeting.
- Ft. Detrick is also dealing with unauthorized drones operating over or near the installation.
- Expect a DOD policy announcement this week on immunizing the federal workforce.
- Negotiations continue with Frederick County to provide an emergency back-up water source.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Networking break 10:10-10:30

Serving Together Project Presentation – Ms. Swoboda introduced Katie Kilby, Program Director for Serving Together, a nonprofit organization with the mission to connect those who serve with services in their community, covering Northern Virginia, Washington, DC and 12 counties in Maryland. The program is a one-stop-shop network serving all military, veterans, families and caregivers in the Central Maryland region. They facilitate Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) arrivals, provide training on family-related issues, host informal meetings for information and networking, and publish a biweekly newsletter. Ms. Kilby can be contacted at kkilby@every-mind.org, (410) 541-6056. (Chart attached)

Installation Commander Updates – Coast Guard, Navy

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commander

- The Yard currently has 720 employees, 85% civilian.

- Aging infrastructure is a persistent issue, with an average facility age of 57 years.
- The waterfront construction of the Roland Lewis ship-lift expansion project, which will increase docking capacity by 40% and provide a unique capability for refitting larger vessels, is 55% complete and continuing on schedule. Whiting-Turner is the managing contractor.
- CAPT Skwarek is working hard to restart the internship program and hire entry level workers.

Patuxent Naval Air Station – CAPT John Brabazon, Commander

- NAS Pax received the first Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant awarded in Maryland. The \$564,000 will enable roadwork construction by St. Mary’s County to improve traffic flow to Gate #2.
- NAS Pax has an active Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with St. Mary’s County.

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – Mr. Michael Curry, Deputy Commander

- NSA Annapolis has similar infrastructure and security issues as described by other commanders.
- As experienced at several other Maryland installations, utilization of morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) services is down, presenting decisions to reduce or eliminate some services.
- Construction on the Naval Institute conference center is complete, and the facility has opened.
- A resilience study with USNA/NSA Annapolis and the City of Annapolis should be complete in December.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Scott Switzer, Commanding Officer

- CAPT Switzer has been in command for 4 ½ months. This is his first MMIC meeting.
- The current big issue for NSA Bethesda is accommodating Afghan refugees and family members.
- The hospital complex sees 14,000 patients/day. Major MILCON continues with the \$602M construction of a new hospital building.
- The underground crossing from the Metro station under MD Route 355, connecting NSA Bethesda and NIH, is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony has been postponed but will be rescheduled.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Mr. David Drazen, Chief Technology Officer

- NSWC Carderock currently employs a workforce of 2800, with \$800 million of direct site work.
- Among other projects is the recently conducted successful shock trials of the USS Gerald R. Ford.
- NSWC Carderock is supporting several installation and community STEM outreach activities and is participating for the third year in the Einstein Fellowship program.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – Mr. Tom Hastings, Community Planning Liaison Officer

- The installation is currently at HPCON B+, with minimal impacts to operations.

Maryland Compatible Use Planning Program Update

Compatible Use Technical Guidebook and Website – Eric Spillman reviewed the project organization and deliverables, including the website to be designed and implemented. (Charts attached)

Renewable Energy Siting Study – Patrick Small, Matrix Design Group, reviewed the in-progress Compatible Use Energy Siting Study, which will include military impact assessments for each major installation. The study should be complete by February 2022. (Charts attached)

At this point Ms. Swoboda interrupted the scheduled sequence and introduced Rep. Ruppertsberger.

Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger, 2nd District, Maryland

- Congressman Ruppertsberger represents the 2nd Maryland District, which includes Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground. He serves on the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, and co-chairs the Army Caucus.
- The House has recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act, and also a Continuing Resolution.
- The congressman discussed the threats posed by Russia and China, with emphasis on technology competition as exemplified by the Chinese Huawei company's alleged technology piracy. He also speculated that the next world war will be in space.
- He commented on and lamented the current partisan state of national affairs, and the inability of political leadership to reach consensus on major issues.
- He also stated that he continues to work hard for the state of Maryland, citing the new Cyber facilities and sea wall reinforcement at the U.S. Naval Academy as a recent example. He thanked everybody present for what they do to support the military installations in Maryland.

Military Alliance President Remarks

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Ivan Caplan, President

- The MTA supports both Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Carderock and the Coast Guard Yard.
- Mr. Caplan described an initiative to attract talent to the Carderock workforce.
- The increasing workload at the Coast Guard Yard is stressing the aging facilities. The MTA is pursuing legislative relief.
- The Coast Guard expects \$1B for two new icebreakers.

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Pam Frank, Executive Director

- NSWC Indian Head shares the same workforce and resource issues as other installations.
- Carderock has 380 new hires including 80 recent graduates.
- There are currently 300+ Marines stationed on the installation, with limited local services and activities.
- There is a focus on unmanned vehicle test infrastructure.
- Carderock is working with the U.K. and Australia on a submarine program.
- The MAC continues to work on economic development issues, to include growth at the Velocity Center at Indian Head and a possible feeder airport. There are associated environmental issues.
- There is a need for more veterans' services in Charles County.
- The Coast Guard Yard modernization plan needs additional funding, hence a request for \$25 billion is going to Congress.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Not represented. SMNA President, Gary Kessler, who had to depart early for another engagement.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Not represented (due to a potential COVID exposure)

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Doreen Harwood, President

- The FMA maintains a close relationship with the Fort Meade Garrison.
- FMA hosted 44 virtual events in the past 18 months during the COVID pandemic.
- FMA completed and ongoing projects include:
 - Enabling a \$400k grant for a Cyber Lab at Fort Meade High School
 - Implementing a healthy cooking initiative
 - Working on a 911 mental health hotline
 - A published white paper on Cyber workforce issues, to include recommendations on attraction and retention of talent
- The FMA top priority continues to be the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center project and the associated Resiliency Kiosks, which will open in November. A recognition and fundraising gala are scheduled for 9 April 2022, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony anticipated for August 2022.

Army Alliance (AA) – Tony Lisuzzo, President

- Army Alliance legislative priorities include continued funding for the Army Facilities Reduction Program, and support to complete the contaminated facilities reduction program on APG South.
- The Alliance is advocating a legislative initiative to exempt military retirement pensions from the Maryland state income tax, with a goal to attract and retain mid-career workforce talent within the state. The Alliance has proposed the creation of a coalition of Maryland military alliances to support this and other issues to the Maryland General Assembly.
- Mr. Lisuzzo provided copies of a handbook entitled “Alphabet Suit: Navigating Doing Business with Aberdeen Proving Ground,” and invited those in attendance to take a copy.

Maryland State Agency Updates

Department of Planning – Secretary McCord stressed the importance of the Maryland Compatible Use Planning project. He also highlighted the State Data Center as a resource if needed.

Department of Veterans Affairs – Ms. Noe had nothing to add that had not already been discussed.

Department of Transportation – No report: Mr. Crampton was called away at the last minute.

Conclusion

Recurring key issues throughout the program were:

- Concern regarding the implementation of the 28 November vaccine requirement for the civilian workforce and contactors on-base.
- Continuing challenges with workforce recruiting and retention.

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and staying to the scheduled finish. Expect the next MMIC to be another live event in early spring. Ms. Swoboda adjourned the session at 12:45 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 10.04.2021

MMIC Slides 10.04.2021

MMIC Attendee List 10.04.2021