

Maryland Military Installation Council

2023 Annual Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE §11-207

Submitted by:

Maryland Department of Commerce

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## **Maryland Military Installation Council**

### **2023 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 2023. 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, the associated defense communities, and supporting defense industry.

The MMIC met three times in 2023: March 13<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. These meetings were held in-person at the Maryland state office building at 100 Community Place in Crownsville. Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson chaired the March and September meetings, which were both directed by Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA). The December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was chaired by Ms. Swoboda on behalf of Secretary Anderson. OMFA continues to provide direct support and coordinate all actions associated with the MMIC.

#### **MMIC Meetings Summary:**

The Council heard from featured speakers at each meeting, with updates on programs relevant to the health and well-being of Maryland's military installations and defense communities. Installation and base commanders provided updates on activities and issues, and the military alliance presidents provided updates on their respective activities.

#### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

- **Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair** welcomed attendees, and as the new Chairman provided a summary of his professional background and some thoughts on how the state can better engage to improve our defense communities.
- **Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs, and Executive Director of the MMIC** noted that Fort Meade has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities as one of five Great American Defense Communities for 2023, and also noted a Maryland Defense Forum is scheduled for 5-6 June in Annapolis.
- **LTG Kevin Vereen, G-9, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations, Energy and Environment** discussed how communities can partner with military installations, noting a Fort Meade signing ceremony to recognize the Army's 100<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Support Agreement. His expanded comments on current issues included housing, childcare, spousal employment, installation resiliency, PCS moves and military and family medical care.
- **Jill McClune, Co-chair of the MMIC Workforce Committee and Past President Army Alliance** provided an update on progress among the four workforce subcommittees: Recruitment/talent;

Retention of veterans in the state; Spousal employment/licensure; and Affordable housing and childcare.

### September 25<sup>th</sup>

- **Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair** welcomed attendees and noted the recent economic impact study shows that the installations, with tenant organizations, contribute significantly to the Maryland GDP, and that impact has grown consistently over the past 20 years.
- **Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs, and Executive Director of the MMIC** welcomed attendees and commented on the potential impacts of the pending government shutdown.
- **Michael Siers and Ellen Bast of the Maryland Department of Commerce** presented results from the recent Maryland Military Installations Economic Impact Study, which was based on 2021 data. They noted Maryland is currently #6 among all states in overall DOD spending. The total economic impact from Maryland's 14 major military installations alone is \$61.4B.
- **Amy O'Donnell, OMFA Program Director for Navy and Coast Guard, and staff support to the MMIC Workforce Committee** presented a status update of the now five subcommittees: (1) workforce attraction, training and retention; (2) veteran retention and employment; (3) spousal license transfer and employment; (4) affordable housing in proximity to installation communities; and (5) childcare availability.
- **Bonnie Green, Executive Director, The Patuxent Partnership** described "Southern Maryland 2030," a multifaceted program to develop workforce talent and instill a desire to serve. The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance has worked for four years to achieve funding. Highlights of the program are detailed in the meeting minutes.
- **Allison Chamberlayne, Director of Operations, Hiring Our Heroes** described how the Hiring Our Heroes program connects separating service members, veterans and spouses with businesses and participating employers that need their skills.

### December 11<sup>th</sup>

- **Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs, and Executive Director of the MMIC** provided welcome remarks, reviewed the agenda and recognized several attendees.
- **Jennifer Chiasson, Sr. Program Manager, MD Commerce, Office of Military & Federal Affairs and Sarah Diehl, Southern Maryland Regional Planner, Maryland Department of Planning** described the Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) initiative, which would consolidate several installation specific MIRRs and initiate local MIRRs at other installations. The program will be supported by community grants through the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).
- **Anthony Woods, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs** described the MDVA expanded mission as support of veterans, service members and families, with focus on five challenge areas: employment, education, food and housing, health and wellness, and volunteer service.

- **Ashley Johnson, SES, Technical Director, Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division** described “Smart Arsenal,” an initiative to advance the NSWC Indian Head mission. He stated the Indian Head mission as “full spectrum” from R&D through production, and the need to return the 133-year-old facility to full capacity with regard to infrastructure, workforce and new partnerships. The Department of the Navy has programmed an investment of \$2B+ over the next decade to accomplish this.
- **Tricia Tyler, Vice President, Veteran Employment, Easterseals DC, MD and VA** described the Easterseals Veteran Staffing Network program which provides career coaching and job placement for veterans, transitioning active duty and spouses. Other services include a homeless veterans reintegration program, behavioral health care, in-home respite care for family members with disabilities, and scholarships for the children of wounded warriors.

**At each of the three 2023 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, as detailed in the following minutes from each meeting.
- Representatives from the seven military alliances offered overviews of their alliance activities and engagement with their respective installations.
- Congressional staff in attendance, representing the federal Maryland delegation, participated in discussion and provided comments on relevant federal issues.
- State agency directors in attendance, or their representatives, provided comments and perspective on many of the programs and issues discussed.

**Findings and Recommendations:**

As in previous years it remains clear that Maryland must be vigilant in the face of defense budget instability, mission realignments and/or relocation out of Maryland, and potential BRAC activity. Engagement from all Maryland stakeholders is necessary to avoiding losing military mission, which equates to jobs, 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.

- Although the installations have returned to normal post-COVID operations, most still have a considerable segment of their workforce working remotely.
- Childcare capacity and childcare worker hiring and retention is a persistent problem at most of the installations and surrounding communities.
- Workforce shortages persist at all Maryland installations. In addition to technical and cyber skills, commanders report difficulty in hiring childcare workers, mechanics and other skilled labor. The MMIC workforce committee, with support from other Maryland state agencies, continues to support and encourage initiatives to improve recruitment and retention of a highly skilled workforce supporting Maryland installations.

- Continued engagement with our federal partners and financial support of our seven military alliances are both essential to maintaining the estimated \$61.4 billion economic impact of our Maryland military installations.

The minutes of the three 2023 meetings follow.

# MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, March 13, 2023; 0830-1200

## Meeting Minutes

The first MMIC meeting of 2023 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, comments from a guest speaker, a status report from the MMIC Workforce Committee, updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, the Maryland National Guard, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 65.

### Welcome Remarks

**Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC, and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs** welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and recognized several of the senior attendees. Ms. Swoboda commented on the following:

- Fort Meade has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) as one of five 2023 Great American Defense Communities. She also encouraged attendees to join ADC and recognized Karen Holt as the new ADC President as well as the new Harford County Economic Development Director.
- Our office continues to work on the spousal licensing issue.
- The Alliances are supporting “Support our Heroes” legislation, introduced by Governor Moore, to increase the Maryland military retirement tax exemption amount and eliminate the age threshold.
- In cooperation with ADC, our office will conduct a Maryland Defense Forum, scheduled for 5-6 June in Annapolis. More information to follow soon.

**Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair**, welcomed attendees and gave an overview of his professional background and how it has prepared him in his role as the new Secretary of Commerce. He emphasized the impact and value of the Maryland installations and defense communities. He recognized Maryland has a highly educated workforce, STEM engagement and R&D activity but also that we lack in economic growth compared to other states, especially as it relates to pandemic recovery. He appreciates the economic impact of the military mission in the state, and looks forward to visiting the installations and interacting with leadership and staff. He acknowledged the governor’s priority to support infrastructure funding for innovation, which could fund new labs, manufacturing facilities, cybersecurity infrastructure and more. He supports economic equality and the Fair Wage Act, the Employer Security Tax Credit; tools which will help Maryland remain competitive.

### Keynote Speaker:

**LTG Kevin Vereen, G-9, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations, Energy and Environment**

- LTG Vereen discussed how communities partner with the military.
- He noted a signing ceremony at Fort Meade to recognize the Army’s 100<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Support Agreement. The service issue of this Fort Meade IGSA is stormwater management, which was signed in partnership with Howard County. Currently there are 200 IGSA across the services, 112 at Army installations.

- LTG Vereen discussed priorities for Army installation management:
  - Housing: The housing issues are interdependent with school systems. Since FY20, funding for housing improvements has increased and a bill of rights for military families was executed.
  - Childcare: Must address shortfalls both on and off the installation. Five new CDC have been completed in the past year, with 10 more under construction. The larger problem is manning the CDC with qualified childcare workers. Measures to recruit childcare workers include bonuses for new providers, access to defense commissaries, discounts for the children of childcare workers, and educational/professional development opportunities.
  - Spousal Employment: We enlist soldiers; but we reenlist families. So reducing barriers for spouse employment enables retention of service members. Among incentives is a program to provide up to \$1,000 to support licensure reimbursement costs after a relocation. Options to work remotely also enable opportunities for spouse employment.
  - Installation Resiliency: Our installations provide the essential capabilities to project military power. The most frequent problem is a weather event. Installations must be able to ensure electric power in emergency situations. Exploring micro grids, privatizing utilities, harvesting/conserving water, and grid protections are all in play.
  - Two other priorities, where other organizations have the lead, are PCS moves and military and family medical care.
- The Army's relationship with Maryland is critical. Mutual benefit in that partnership is that the military brings employment and the related economic impact into the community, and the community allows the military to leverage expertise and resources beyond the fence line.
- The Services, including the Army, are all having difficulty with recruiting. It is all about the people! We need everybody to help recruit.
- Questions from the audience included a request for a meeting with LTG Vereen's office, a comment about salary being the root cause for child care shortages, and how IGSA's and multi-generational support from retirees could support childcare needs, incentives for spousal employment via educational opportunities, and the need to synchronize policy and infrastructure with existing EV fleets.

### **MMIC Workforce Committee Update**

#### **Jill McClune, Co-chair of the MMIC Workforce Committee and Past President Army Alliance**

- (See accompanying briefing charts)
- The MMIC workforce survey conducted last fall identified workforce challenges across installations.
- Input was broken up into four areas to be led by subcommittee teams. The initial kickoff for these teams is in progress, and the teams are looking into initiatives that will have a statewide impact.
  - Team 1: Recruitment/talent
  - Team 2: Retention of veterans - exemption for military/retirement pay, Veterans Affairs groups, educational best practices for transition
  - Team 3: Spousal employment/licensure -- DOD would like to see every state provide spousal licensure within 30 days of PSC. Compacts are gold standard and provide

models; nursing compact an example of a compact. Forming a compact in every license will take massive, lengthy effort and requires negotiation state by state and may drag down progress with reciprocity. Maryland needs a gap analysis to see where the state can support.

- Team 4: Affordable housing & childcare -- impacts some communities more than others, but need to look at what the state legislature can do to positively impact all defense communities in Maryland.
- Questions from the audience included Maryland's participation in the nursing compact, a concern with the DOD prioritizing compacts over reciprocity, a suggestion for more military representation on the sub teams, and a push to make all Maryland schools purple star schools better support military families.
- The slide deck will be emailed to all MMIC attendees at the email address provided at check in.

### **Networking break 10:00 – 10:20**

#### **Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates**

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

- Secured \$32M funding needed for runway expansion.
- The A10 airframe is at the end of its service life. The runway at Martin State airport must be lengthened to support the F16 and F22 aircraft.
- The MDNG has fielded an organic cyber defense capability headquartered at Martin State airport.
- MOA with Applied research lab @ UMD (ARLISS) for cybersecurity work. ● Building more MDNG readiness centers.

##### **Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander**

- Fort Detrick is the second largest employer in Frederick County and is a significant investment in the community. Working on rebuilding ties that were lost during COVID and making progress on collaboration.
- There are currently 11,000 employees, with 2000 in uniform.
- Installation recently responded to tanker fire on Route 270.
- Although it is an "Army" installation, five cabinet level agencies are represented on Fort Detrick.

##### **Naval Support Facility Indian Head – CAPT Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac**

- CAPT Copeland's change of command is scheduled for June.
- NSF Indian Head continues to cope with environmental challenges and has invested over \$100M in environmental cleanup. Installation continues to engage with EPA. EPA is rebaselining all the original assessments done over previous years due to complete personnel changeovers.
- A new, and only grocery store within 15 miles, broke ground this week in Indian Head. This is critical to the QOL for on-base military as well as the local community.
- Regarding use of electric vehicles, there are currently no charging stations on the installation, nor in town.

- The installation has been working with Charles County and MDOT to identify and prioritize needed upgrades on Route 210 at the entrance to the base in the Town of Indian Head. They are having repeated and serious gate runners with the straight on entrance guard station to base.

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Todd Hutchinson, Commanding Officer, and Mr. Dave Drazen, Chief Technology Officer**

- CAPT Hutchinson’s change of command is scheduled for May.
- NSWC Carderock currently has 2000 employees.
- Carderock recently hosted a Small Business Industry Day, with 60 companies registered and 40 in attendance. In 2022 the contracting office executed 120+ small business transactions for \$14M. For FY23, 42 contract actions with \$12M in funding so far.
- Carderock also recently co-hosted a job fair with Montgomery County and has more events planned for veterans and wounded warriors.
- A Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) awarded in 2022 will benefit a Carderock activity located in Florida. (The DCIP is funded at \$100M this year, and the local commander’s letter of endorsement is vitally important.)
- The Carderock submarine races are scheduled 25-30 June, with teams from 20 schools, including a few Maryland high school teams. A VIP Day is scheduled for 29 June.

**Coast Guard Yard – CDR Lauren Dufrene, Executive Officer**

- The Curtis Bay Yard has been operating since 1899. The infrastructure is ancient, with much of it predating WWII.
- Dredging Curtis Bay channel is a CG priority; just completed an environmental assessment and now working on the permitting process.
- Met with the MMIC workforce committee, and the USCG Yard maintains a strong alliance with the Digital Harbor School in Baltimore. We still have a gap of 70+ vacancies and need help with recruitment/talent acquisition.
- Some of the workforce recruitment problems could be alleviated with direct hiring authority for the trades.

**Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– CAPT Derrick Kingsley, Commanding Officer**

- NAS Pax has contributed \$20M for land preservation of 12,000+ acres to protect the mission and continues to partner with the State, local government, environmental groups via the REPI program.
- \$2.7M award to restore shoreline erosion on the northern boundary of the installation, which will also protect wildlife.
- The installation is working with St. Mary’s County to:
  - Lower speed limits in some areas close to the base
  - Provide disclosures for apartment renters to notify them of noise and air operation risks in aircraft accident potential zones; already included in housing disclosures
  - Restrict plastic bags
- A hurricane response exercise is scheduled for late April.

### **Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Homer Denius, Commanding Officer**

- NSA Annapolis maintains a close partnership with the City of Annapolis and the state, and is working with those partners on the Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) project.
- CAPT Denius' change of command will be in July.
- The refurbishment of McDonough Hall is almost complete.
- NSA Annapolis has worked with Army Corps of Engineers to designate down-range safety and buffer zones when the Greenbury Point firing range is in use. These areas will be closed to the public when the range is hot.

### **Joint Base Andrews – Col. Todd Randolph, 316<sup>th</sup> Wing and Installation Commander**

- JB Andrews is “America’s Airfield” and has representation from every service. ● Hosted MLK observance ceremony and remembrance presentation

- Honorary member program recently hosted an event to recognize influencers in the community that supports the base’s mission; 15 community leaders were recognized.
- Hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual STEAM event, with 300 K-12 students in 14 workshops.
- Another STEAM event is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- On June 8<sup>th</sup> JBA will host a small business summit “How to do Business with JBA.”
- Recognized that MD Senate passed SB115 which establishes concurrent jurisdiction for juvenile offenses on military installations

### **Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander**

- Fort Meade Garrison hosted an Army 100<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) signing ceremony.
- Installation leadership is trying to redefine “power projection” to include Ft. Meade, on the premise that “ones & zeros” are at least as important as “beans & bullets.”
- The Navy and Marine Corps have each established new two-star headquarters at Ft. Meade but not synchronizing requirements with growth.
- Damage from the Christmas Day storm has been assessed at \$300-500k from burst pipes ● Guns and drugs at the on-base middle school is a problem.
- Staffing shortages across the board, but especially with childcare providers and engineers. These issues compound behavioral issues.
- For service members working in a classified environment, it is difficult to diagnose and treat mental disorders due to TS clearance.
- Although electric vehicles offer environmental advantages, their reliability is affected by the availability and location of charging stations.
- Just signed an air emissions certificate for 2022 and have reduced air pollution.
- The Garrison will support a “Meade Cluster Day” in the spring.
- Acknowledged the Great American Defense Community recognition and Fort Meade Alliance support of Kuhn Hall.
- Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) are great, but mutual support agreements can be just as effective and easier to achieve.

### **Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander**

- COL Casiano’s change of command is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Regarding electric vehicles, expect restrictions on use for transporting energetics and munitions due to arcing/sparking potential.
- Regarding aging infrastructure, the average age of facilities at APG is 80 years, with 800 structures categorized as Q3/Q4, which is poor. There is excess space that could be reclaimed, especially if significant remote work persists.
- Regarding workforce issues, APG has reached out to Harford Community College to expedite a 2-year accreditation for child care workers, and a certification for security personnel.

#### **Naval Activity Bethesda – Not represented**

#### **Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented**

#### **Military Alliance President Remarks**

#### **Army Alliance (AA) – Tony Lisuzzo, President**

- The Army Alliance annual luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th at the Waters' Edge Event Center, with BG Adam Flasch, Director of the Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard, as the guest speaker. Will be recognizing the 2023 Defense Community Champion, Curtis Beulah and updates from Jill McClune on Army Alliance initiatives and updates on Discovery Center.
- Discussed support for a Discovery & Science Center in the Aberdeen area.
- The new Harford County Executive, Bob Cassilly, a veteran and former state senator, is very supportive of the base and focused on the base as a source for skilled workforce and new opportunities for county/APG partnerships.
- The Army Alliance is positioning to compete for a grant to establish a regional bio-manufacturing hub.
- A congressional staff visit is scheduled for 11 April.
- Thanks to the other alliances for support to the Governor's legislative initiative to exempt military retirement pay from Maryland taxation.

#### **Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President**

- Supported NSWC IH Division Industry Day in February with over 100 companies participating.
- The MAC advocated for the soon-to-be-open Oasis grocery store, which will be the only grocery store within 15 miles of the Indian Head installation.
- Partnership with St. Mary's County to brief SoMD delegation on alliance activities and future needs.
- MAC will be supporting the College of Southern Maryland in a variety of STEM events. ● MAC has provided input for the Indian Head federal priorities as requested.

#### **Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Tom Garrison, President**

- SMNA is supporting the Southern Maryland Workforce 2030 initiative to increase the availability of internships and apprenticeships. 40 companies participating.
- SMNA is also supporting the Junior Science and Humanities program.
- Second Maryland Airspace Day.
- The Patuxent Partnership Industry Partnership Day is scheduled with joint capabilities demos.
- State of the base address is scheduled for March 24th.

- SMNA has actively supported the Governor’s “Keep our Heroes Home” legislation to reduce the state taxation of military retirement pay.

**Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Tim O’Ferrall, Executive Director**

- The Fort George G. Meade Region has been designated one of five “2023 Great American Defense Communities” by the Association of Defense Communities for recognition of Kuhn Hall.
- The Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center opened 17 Nov 2022 with seven additional kiosks spread across the installation. The Kuhn Hall renovation was a \$5.4M gift from the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation, available to any and all service members, families, veterans and retirees.
- The National Security Agency is planning to hire 3000 new employees this year. This will be a challenge as there are currently 20,000 IT/Cyber position vacancies in the region.

**Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Jeannine Mantz, Member**

- The MTA has been advocating workforce issues for the Coast Guard Yard.
- MTA is again supporting the “Let’s Go Boys & Girls” STEM program

**Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Not represented**

**Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented**

**State Agency Closing Remarks**

**MDOR/State Highway Administration – Tim Smith, SHA Administrator**

- SHA will provide commanders with a list of MDOT/SHA project status in the vicinity of each installation.

**Department of Planning – Rebecca Flora, Secretary**

- Ms. Flora commented on the impact of the State’s military installations.
- She expects the Governor’s cabinet to be extremely collaborative and supportive.

**Conclusion**

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and for staying beyond the scheduled finish, and adjourned the session at 12:00 pm.

**MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL**  
**Monday, September 25, 2023; 0800-1130**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The second MMIC meeting of 2023 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, a report on the most recent military installation economic impact study, a status report from the MMIC Workforce Committee with briefings on the Southern Maryland 2030 and Hiring Our Heroes programs, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 70.

**Welcome Remarks**

**Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair** welcomed attendees and highlighted the impact of Maryland's military installations on the state's economy. The Secretary noted the recent economic impact study shows that the installations, with their tenant organizations, contribute significantly to the Maryland GDP, and that impact has grown consistently over the last 20 years. He also noted there are challenges remaining to make Maryland the best state for military service members and their families.

**Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC, and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs** welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and recognized several of the senior attendees. Ms. Swoboda commented on the following:

- Pending government shutdown and impacts on the state could include defense labs working under defense capital funds, interruptions to PCS moves, counseling services, and more. She noted childcare services will be maintained for essential employees and existing contractors can provide services up until the contract amount but new contracts or extensions will not be granted.
- Defense contractors Booz Allen Hamilton and Northrop Grumman both opened new facilities in Maryland in the past couple of weeks; signs of continued DIB growth with expanded capabilities.
- A Navy veteran made international news after successfully receiving a heart transplant from a pig from the innovative University of Maryland Medical Center.

Lisa also acknowledged State Delegate Carl Jackson and State Senator William Smith, MMIC members, and offered Delegate Jackson (in attendance) to make some remarks.

Delegate Jackson thanked the State Speaker of the House for the nomination to MMIC and noted that he wants to support the council. Delegate Jackson noted that he had spoken to Senator Smith who was unable to attend the meeting but sent his regards.

**FY21 Economic Impact Study of Maryland's Military Installations**

**Michael Siers and Ellen Bast of the Department of Commerce** presented results from the recent Maryland Military Installations Economic Impact Study, which was based on FY2021 data. They noted that Maryland is currently #6 among all states in overall DOD spending. The total economic impact from Maryland's 14 major military installations alone totals \$61.4B. They reviewed the study methodology and input data requirements; and results in terms of jobs, employee compensation and overall

economic activity generated, noting a 12.5% growth from the previous EIS based on FY2016 data. The study has been approved for public release and is available on the [Department of Commerce website](#).

Various questions were raised from attendees regarding the FY21 Economic Impact Study. They were as follows and answered by Dept. of Commerce staff and leadership:

Q: Will there be a press release?

A: No, an official release was not approved, however, OMFA is happy to work with local communities on talking points for their installation.

Q: Is the economic model that was used to generate the data nationally recognized?

A: Yes, and one of two models that is widely used; Commerce uses IMPLAN

Q: How will the data be used?

A: There are opportunities for import substitutions and export retention. The report can help bring in new opportunities and prevent the loss of economic impact. It was noted that the total procurement data saw large gaps to Maryland businesses for some installations which can help direct our economic growth focus. There is in-state versus total procurement and job data.

The economic council will be looking at data like this when directing strategy and growth/expansion.

Noted that there were certain installations that had a drop in economic output because of the shift in spending away from Maryland vendors.

A comment was provided by the chair of the veterans caucus that the caucus is doing a tour of all federal installations in the state and will utilize economic impact data during the tours.

Q: Does this report capture new businesses or intellectual property coming out of federal installations?

A: Maryland has more federal labs than any other state in the nation. DefTech, run by TEDCO, supported by DoD funding that supports federal technology transfer, which drives innovation and opportunities connected with businesses. Oftentimes PLAs are not disclosed by businesses so we are not getting the full picture from that economic activity.

Important to grow and sustain that economic activity from technology transfer and capture that data. Maryland receives more research funding than any other place in the nation.

Maryland is number 1 in the nation for R&D based on our GDP. #1 in defense contracting as a percentage of GDP. #1 in academic contracting as a percentage of GDP (APL). All due to our installations.

However, Maryland has barely cracked the top ten in private investment and we need to start drawing that private investment from states like MA, CA. Asset rich and strategy poor.

The top contractor in Maryland is APL; often forgotten, puts MD far ahead in R&D, as does UMD. UMD/APL joining forces to work on space research.

## **Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates**

### **Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Phillip Mundweil, Garrison Commander**

- The APG mission has not changed and includes four locations: APG North, APG South, Adelphi and Blossom Point.
- The installation hosts seven general officer headquarters and six Army Centers of Excellence.
- The Senior Mission Commander, MG Robert Edmonson, has been extended for a third year in command, which is good for continuity of operations and for a briefing to the head of the Army this year for funding requests.
- The garrison and tenant organizations continue to balance their workforce between office and remote, while trying to predict “the future of work.” 3,700 PhDs on APG that are interested and good fits for remote work.
- Tenant organizations compete for talent to fill technical jobs, while the garrison has difficulty filling support positions such as MWR pool lifeguards, security, first responders, maintenance, etc. Struggle with providing competitive pay, especially for lower level positions.

### **Fort Meade – COL(R) Brian Foley, Civilian Deputy to the Garrison Commander**

- Fort Meade has been selected by Association of Defense Communities as one of five “Great American Defense Communities” for 2023. Recognized partnership with the state of Maryland and other MMIC members as having an impact.
- Fort Meade growth continues and recognizes the importance of accurate tracking of economic impact data as well as the challenges with obtaining data from NSA. The on-post workforce is now approximately 62,000, which by population is the Army’s second largest installation after Fort Liberty (formerly known as Fort Bragg). Cyber Command and NSA are expanding and \$4B in new construction has been completed, and \$4B is on-going or planned. 17,000 employees are migrating from off-site locations to the east cyber campus.
- The Rockenbach Gate is now open and will become a major commuter artery for east campus; the Reese Gate is still closed for upgrade and expected to be complete by Spring 2024; the Cooper Road expansion has been approved; building a traffic circle at DISA HQ; and \$94M in new barracks construction is just started. Construction ongoing on a \$100M joint operations facility for special operations command.
- The installation faces continued challenges in hiring. The garrison is experienced a 25% turnover rate this year with 89 new employees replacing 91 employees lost. The greatest need is in security and childcare workers. A hiring event for childcare workers is scheduled for 25 October and first off-post hiring event on 23 November at the Millersville library. There will be a hiring event for on-base security personnel on 2 November.
- A Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for 27 October at the McGill Training Center with the Governor in attendance.

### **Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermeier, Commanding Officer**

- Coast Guardsman will not be getting paid during the government shutdown.
- Infrastructure remains the biggest challenge for the Yard which has a \$60M unfunded requirement to dredge and add a floating dry dock to enable maintenance on some of modern vessels in the fleet. Current budget does not look like it can support that requirement.
- Workforce challenges continue in the trade fields. 50 people above attrition due to summer hiring events but most are junior and require training. The Yard is coordinating with Aberdeen Proving Ground on a wage-grade survey. Paying competitively and competing with DC for workers.
- FMS program refurbishing vessels for foreign partners, an investment to Maryland via the Yard.

**Naval Support Facility Indian Head – CAPT David Wilson, Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac**

- The Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), stationed at NSF Indian Head, will convert to an Army unit over the next few years, but will retain the same incident response capability and will remain stationed at Indian Head. Will bring another 150 personnel on base starting next month.
- Privatizing utilities on base but cannot share who is bidding due to NDAs.
- Police force is the only civilian force in the Navy. NSF Indian Head recently received approval to offer higher salaries to security guards which brings them in line with other services; also approved bonuses for entry level police officers.

**Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– CAPT Douglas Burfield, Executive Officer**

- NAS Pax operates three airfields: the main installation and Webster airfield in St. Mary's county, and one at the Navy Recreation Center at Solomons. 25,000 commuting on/off base with 64 tenant commands.
- 14 openings for police officers with bonuses but no salary increase.
- Privatizing utilities for water supply and wastewater; already privatized electricity 10 years ago.
- Currently breaking ground on a new air traffic control tower at Webster.

**Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Alan Christian, Commanding Officer**

- NAS Bethesda receives 10-12k visitors a day and has over 40 tenant activities, the most prominent being the Walter Reed Military Medical Center. Smaller base with larger economic impact.
- Construction continues on expansion of WRMMC, which continues to be the military's top medical center.
- Echoed other commanders' issues with hiring, particularly when it comes to on-post security guards.
- The Uniformed Services University offers 4-year medical degrees, plus other masters and doctoral degrees, and offers residency training at Walter Reed and other schools. Accepts civilian students as well.

**Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Christopher Schwarz, Commanding Officer**

- NSA Annapolis had a change of command in July, with farewell to CAPT Denius, and welcome to CAPT Schwartz.
- With the Naval Academy as a major tenant, the installation receives two million visitors per year.
- Zoe Johnson, Community Planning Liaison Officer for NSA Annapolis provided an overview of the installation's efforts to address coastal flooding from sea level rise and extreme weather events and of the partnership with the City of Annapolis and the state, and is working with those partners on several resilience projects.

**Joint Base Andrews – Col. Gage Bryson, 316<sup>th</sup> Vice Wing Commander**

- There are 84 additional federal agencies besides the White House in the NCR that require a large airfield. Host the AW139 fleet and are receiving 40 new airframes and noted new construction for the hangers for these airframes. JBA will be housing 24 U.S. Coast Guard aircraft on the base.
- JBA is experiencing the same hiring challenges as the other installations. One of three child development centers is closed due to staffing shortages. Doing hiring fairs to address the issue and they are authorized to give CDC workers free childcare tuition for first child and second child

at 50% rate. 11 civil engineer position vacancies; only 3 have been filled in the past year. As an anecdote, Col. Bryson noted four months to obtain a licensure in Maryland, but only three weeks for the same licensure in Virginia. MDVA Secretary Woods noted that all states must comply with the federal licensing policies.

- The change of command ceremony for the new Air Force Chief of Staff will be at JBA.

#### **Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Ms. Charlotte George, STEM and Outreach Program Director**

- At a change of command ceremony in May, CAPT Tardy replaced CAPT Hutchinson.
- NSWC intends to continue educational outreach with their popular STEM activities and the Human-powered submarine races. STEM outreach program focuses on K-12 outreach. Workforce grows 5% each summer through internships and faculty programs with 25 paid internship positions for high school students (70% Maryland students). New program with Montgomery County called Summer Rise for rising MCPS juniors and seniors to participate in career-based learning opportunities over the summer.

#### **Maryland National Guard – Not represented**

#### **Fort Detrick – Not represented**

#### **Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented**

#### **Networking break 9:40 – 10:00**

#### **MMIC Workforce Committee Update**

**Amy O'Donnell, Program Director for the Navy and CG; staff support to the MMIC Workforce Committee** presented the status of the five workforce related teams efforts in support of the installation's and their communities workforce needs. A status on the (1) workforce attraction, training, and retention, (2) veteran retention and employment, (3) spousal license transfer and employment, (4) housing in proximity to installation communities and (5) childcare was provided. Included was a brief discussion of related efforts occurring in communities and other state agencies related to the five areas. A request in the attached presentation was made from the teams to the installations as well as communities for support in the five areas.

#### **Southern Maryland 2030: A Workforce Partnership with the Navy**

**Bonnie Green, Executive Director, The Patuxent Partnership** described this multifaceted program to develop workforce talent and instill a desire to serve. The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance has worked for 4 years to achieve funding. Highlights from the program can be found below.

- Apprenticeship program called Tech Jobs Rule in partnership with St. Mary's County, NAWCAD, and TPP for on- and off-base apprenticeships paying \$15/hr. with many apprentices hired by companies and the Navy after the completion of the apprenticeship.
- Paid internship program over the summer, also interning on- and off-base; received 156 applications and accepted 41 interns with 40+ companies participating.
- TPP is working with the MAC to expand the program into Charles County.
- Spark Career Awareness Fairs introducing middle and high school students to careers with the DoD; one fair focused on the Navy with 440 students from all three SoMD counties in grades 11 and 12 participating.

- CSM hosted an engineering summer camp for 42 students from all three counties but looking to grow to include Anne Arundel County students.
- Building out a cybersecurity lab in Leonardtown due to Calvert Cliffs and Cover Point facilities not being open for apprenticeships.
- Youth in Aviation program tied to Tuskegee institute teaches avionics and students can get a pilot's license.
- Transportation in SoMD remains a challenge and limits opportunities.
- Introduced companies to the MD Technical Intern program.
- Growing partnerships with CSM and will be focusing on early childhood education as well.

### **Hiring Our Heroes: A U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Program**

**Allison Chamberlayne, Director of Operations** described how this program connects service members, spouses and veterans with businesses that need their skills. In essence it is a skill bridge program for E4 to O6 ranks, with hiring events and a fellows program. The employers who participate are looking for military spouses and veterans, and offer their own programs for mentoring and career development. DoD is paying the stipends for spouse participation for the 12-week program and serves all 50 states. Coast Guard Yard and retiree spouses also qualify. Employer partnerships with Amazon, Comcast Universal, and others are recruited via grassroots efforts with both large and small companies participating. Specialty programs include Google's career forward program with a learning pathway via Coursea courses and employment support upon completion. Military Spouse Program is a spotlight of DOC and sees it as a retention tool for DoD.

### **State Agency and Military Alliance President Remarks**

#### **Army Alliance (AA) – Mike Ray, President**

- New to position (two weeks) and thanked Secretary Anderson for speaking at the recent Alliance dinner.
- The Alliance is supporting Harford County to pursue grants to establish a regional bio-manufacturing hub.
- The Alliance works to inform elected officials of APG issues, and is currently coordinating a congressional staff visit before year end.
- A Defense Technology and Intelligence Job Fair is scheduled for 3 November.
- The Alliance annual breakfast is scheduled for 30 November.

#### **Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Christy Butler, Executive Director**

- A regional technology showcase, co-sponsored by the Fort Detrick Alliance and the Frederick Innovative Technology Center (FITCI) is scheduled for this Wednesday, 27 September. MRDC speaking at event and highlights tech transfer successes with FITCI companies.
- The Alliance will sponsor a quarterly networking breakfast on 18 October, with a speaker and focus on workforce recruiting, development and retention. Fulton Bank is speaking on their diversity program to target underserved communities and veterans interested in starting new businesses; will also have Frederick and Washington counties as well as representatives from the State to talk about workforce programs available to companies.
- Other events include the BioInnovation Conference on October 30th, a biohub recruitment expo with 80 businesses participating and AUSA national conference on October 9th - 11th, and Harvest Festival at Fort Detrick on October 27th.

**Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keene, President**

- The MTA has established a partnership with a non-profit that supports the Port of Baltimore in recruiting Baltimore City students as a workforce pipeline for the Coast Guard Yard.
- The MTA continues to support the Coast Guard Yard in securing funding for dredging and a new dry dock.
- Continued STEM program with Carderock. 8 or 9 students from Baltimore City via Lets Go Boys and Girls being supported by MTA. Working with Carderock too on a new ship design facility
- Restructuring board of directors to increase effectiveness and efficiencies.

**Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President**

- Had tours/briefings for Maryland’s new federal delegation in August.
- The MAC continues a breakfast club with elected officials and NSA South Potomac/NSF Indian staff every other month.
- The MAC is also supporting industry outreach events including an outreach event in October, and supporting a NSWC IH industry event focused on construction of facilities.
- Lisa thanked the MAC for identifying security/safety issue with the gate at NSF Indian Head and that these concerns will be addressed with MDOT.

**Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Tim O’Ferrall, Executive Director**

- 2023 is the FMA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 3 October.
- The FMA “Stars in Service” gala fundraiser is scheduled for 21 October at the Arundel Mills Live casino. 450 attendees are expected.
- An FMA-sponsored “Key Leaders Series” is scheduled for 27 October with Lt. Gen. Haugh, Deputy Commander for USCYBERCOM, as speaker.
- FMA continues its popular “SCOPE” program, which informs 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades about defense career paths and the need to qualify for personal security clearances.
- Techmania Day, with 180 high school students and FMA member companies is scheduled for 1 December.
- Funding has been secured to expand the Kuhn Hall Resiliency Center remote network by adding four additional kiosks.
- The FMA will soon be launching a career transition program for new or recently retired service members and spouses. Believe it could be a program other installations can participate in and replicate. Will also announce new funded positions to support these efforts.

**Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Not represented****Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented****State Agency Closing Remarks**

**Department of Planning – Rebecca Flora, Secretary** no comments provided.

**Veterans Administration – Anthony Woods, Secretary** commented that we need to assist those transitioning out of service, and push support to military families. Noted that last year’s claims acceptance rate from their Veteran Benefit Service was 94%. Provided notice of upcoming efforts around Veteran Suicide Prevention in coordination with the Maryland Department of Health, including a best-practices sharing forum anticipated near Veterans’ Day.

**Department of Commerce – Kevin Anderson, Secretary** highlighted that high levels of employment are increasing the challenge to fill the roughly 180,000 employee vacancy gap Maryland is experiencing statewide and announced joint efforts with the Department of Labor to focus on Workforce attraction. Commended the installations and the alliances for their efforts in helping to address these issues in their local communities.

**Lisa Terry, Howard County Veterans Coordinator** noted a first-ever veteran-owned small business and entrepreneur appreciation week within Howard County, with a flyer available.

**Conclusion**

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:30 am.

**MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL**  
**Monday, December 11, 2023; 0830-1130**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The third MMIC meeting of 2023 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, overview of a grant opportunity for the state to support resilience planning in military communities, an overview of the Maryland Joins Forces efforts by the Governor's office and MDVA, a presentation by NSWC IH on the Smart Arsenal modernization effort, a presentation on Easterseals Veteran Staffing Network Program, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, and updates from the military alliance presidents. Total attendance was 60.

**Opening Comments**

**Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC, and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs** welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and recognized several of the senior attendees:

- Kristin Byerly, University of MD Global Campus, newest MMIC member.
- Yolanda Rayford, Director Baltimore and Chesapeake Region, Blue Star Families.
- Mike Rogers, Maryland District 32 Delegate and Chair of the MD House Veterans Caucus. Delegate Rogers commented that the Veterans Caucus, with 74 members, is the largest among states, and operates in a bi-partisan manner.

**Installation Resilience: A "One Community" Effort**

**Jennifer Chiasson, Senior Program Manager, Maryland Commerce, Office of Military & Federal Affairs**  
**Sarah Diehl, Southern Maryland Regional Planner, Maryland Department of Planning**

Installation Resilience Grant Opportunity:

- OLDCC, a DoD agency that provides grants to state and local governments has a grant opportunity for an installation resilience program to fund planning efforts outside the fence line to protect military assets (roads, schools, hospitals, utilities, etc.) in the community from natural or manmade hazards. Also have implementation funding via the IR program or DCIP.
- Five local communities (NSF IH, NSA Annapolis, NSA Bethesda, JBA Andrews, and NAS Pax River) are or have completed Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) projects to develop resilience plans for military assets in the community. Additional efforts are underway to fund MIRRs via OLDCC funding at Army installations in the state.
- OMFA and partners at MDP, MDEM and other agencies are now interested in aligning these local efforts with state initiatives, elevating needs or gaps in planning/implementation and supporting local communities with protecting assets in the community.
- Proposing the state organize around stakeholder engagement opportunities and develop a collaborative framework for collaboration for military resilience.
- Grant requires military support via a letter of support, participation in project oversight, and providing publicly releasable data.
- OMFA will be reaching out to the military in 2024 with specific requests. Goal for application is submission by May for FFY24 funding.

Compatibility Review Tool:

- MDP demoed the new [Compatibility Review tool](#) in the Maryland Military & Community Compatibility website. This tool provides planning professionals with access to publicly releasable military operational data in the state to help with land use planning decisions that are compatible with military missions.
- Requested support with distributing the tool to local communities

### **Maryland Joins Forces: Supporting Military Families and Veterans**

#### **Secretary Anthony Woods, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**

Secretary Woods described the MDVA mission as support for veterans, service members and their families.

- Strong families help veterans and service members thrive.
- Families are at the front line in most major decisions for service members and veterans.

Sec. Woods described a new initiative from Governor Moore, Maryland Joins Forces, to form a committee chaired by Lt. Gov. Miller to address five challenge areas for veterans, service members and families:

- Employment
- Education
- Food and housing insecurity
- Health and wellness
- Volunteer service

Ross Cohen will be the lead from MDVA.

Lisa Swoboda commented that the Association of Defense Communities supports this type of activity and would be a good potential collaborator for the committee. Lisa also encouraged the alliances to become ADC members, if not they are not currently members.

Sec. Woods discussed the need for compliance with interstate compacts regarding professional licensure reciprocity for military spouses. EO is for military spousal licensure recognition, not reciprocity. Labor stated that they are up to date with all of their boards for licensing portability and they are working on getting information to service members when they PCS so the information can get to their spouse.

Concern around the turnaround time of the state's approval of a license - VA took 6 weeks to approve a nursing license and MD took 10 months. There is interest in multi-state licensing compacts. MDE also has licensing boards and needs to be involved to be in compliance.

Lisa Swoboda highlighted Maryland participation in the Purple Star Schools program. It was noted that Anne Arundel County has seven (7) schools in the program.

### **Smart Arsenal: Advancing the NSWC Indian Head Mission**

#### **SES Ashley Johnson, Technical Director, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division**

Mr. Johnson described the Indian Head mission as "full spectrum," from R&D through production. He detailed the initiative to return the 133 year old facility to full capacity with three thrust areas:

- Infrastructure
- Workforce
- New approach to partnerships

This initiative will be supported by a programmed \$2B+ investment over the next decade. Ms. Swoboda highlighted the scope and impact of such a substantial investment by the Department of the Navy.

#### Q&A:

- Q: Partnering with local communities on workforce development initiatives?
  - A: Yes, with CSM but we need to do better with hiring. Needs 500-1000 more employees or 40% increase in workforce.
- Q: Issue is getting people onto the base?
  - A: Digital twin in a virtual environment could help with this. Need to know where is the location for synergy off-base in the county?
- Q: How is NSWC IH getting around the Navy hiring ceiling?
  - A: Reorganize/shift internally and look at federal contracting to support with CAC contractors. Also, NSWC IH is pushing back on that ceiling.
- Q: How to transform your workforce? Engineers may not have experience with manufacturing.
  - A: Attrition and training
- Q: How does one get started with NSWC IH?
  - A: Mechanical Engineering degrees are good. Concentration in energetic materials is attractive. No programs to support high school students working at NSWC IH and will get harder as they implement Smart Arsenal. Focused on speed. However, summer interns can get an intro to the processes and get their interest.
- Q: MAC partnership to look outside of the base at workforce programs like Southern Maryland 2030. Asked MAC to speak on those resources.
  - A: Lots of support from community colleges, the economic development office, and other local entities on workforce development. The EARN Maryland program also a good resource.
- Q: How to staff up?
  - A: Proximity clauses? Yes. In relationships with contractors for assistance with HR staffing. That workforce is required to execute manufacturing requirements, not the modernization piece.

#### **Networking Break 10:00-10:15**

#### **Easterseals Veteran Staffing Network Program**

#### **Tricia Tyler, Vice President, Veteran Employment, Easterseals DC, MD and VA**

The Easterseals organization provides several programs for veterans:

- Staffing Program which provides career coaching and job placement for veterans, transitioning active duty and spouses.
  - The coaching is individualized and tailored for each job-seeker.
  - A staffing agency with a social mission, working with recruiters to fill orders across all industry and service levels.
  - Focuses on the needs of the job seeker.
- A Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, which focuses on employment, not just providing housing accommodations.
- Behavioral health care clinic in Silver Spring serving veterans and their families.
  - Clinic accepts Tricare, which is important.
- In-home respite care for families with disabled children and community respite with support with drop-off services.
- Scholarships for the children of wounded warriors.
- Noted that MDOT is working with DLLR on staffing out state infrastructure projects and EasterSeals would like to collaborate with state on that effort.

## **Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates**

### **Naval Support Facility Indian Head – CAPT David Wilson, Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac**

- Introduced Public Affairs Officer and Adam Lynch, new CPLO.
- Announcement of contractor for privatization of utilities effort is on hold. NSF IH holds the record for the amount of installation outages across the services.

### **Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Christopher Schwarz, Commanding Officer**

- New Commander. Introduced Zoe Johnson, CPLO, and new PAO for installation.
- Security issues around base. Working with the city and county on shared jurisdiction with the US Attorney office. Increase traffic.
- Farragut sea wall with the City of Annapolis; on time and should be done soon. Working on addressing SLR with the city dock.
- New construction for cottages at Greenbury Point, 5 year project open to dependents, active duties and veterans.
- Working with the City of Annapolis on bike paths.

### **Joint Base Andrews – Col, Todd Randolph, Installation and 316<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander**

- Concerns continue about a clear policy on military spouse licensure reciprocity.
- Required to increase the number of firefighters for airfield operations. Working through that requirement and postured to add existing staff members to have four staff members per truck, an increase of 14 firefighters; opportunity for civilian firefighters/volunteers to fill one of those positions.
- Commissioned new VE charging stations; first air station to do so. Working on how to allow privately owned vehicles to use those stations; right now for the base fleet.
- MIRR grant with PG to create traffic resilience routes around the base from excessive flooding events.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Summit is planned for March 2024 at JBA. POC is Krist Zimmerman, CPLO for JBA.
- The next airshow at JBA is scheduled for September 2025. Bypassing 2024 event to accommodate Air Force Birthday.

### **Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermeier, Commanding Officer**

- Three weeks ago the Yard hosted a visit from the Secretary of the Navy.
- A sum of \$636M has been authorized to refurbish/modernize the facility, but these funds have yet to be appropriated.
- There are plenty of opportunities in the local area for community infrastructure projects. Many potholes, flooded roads, and a depressed area does not engender workforce attraction. City roads are the challenge.
- The Yard will again aggressively sponsor summer internships and are actively hiring high school graduates.

### **Aberdeen Proving Ground – CSM Paul Denson, Garrison Command Sergeant Major**

- The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program at APG has begun a recruiting initiative, relying on young soldiers to relate their own experience with enlisting in the Army. Bringing students in to APG to understand what being a soldier looks like at barracks, commissary, etc.

- The Garrison hosted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony on 30 Nov.
- The installation will participate in the Wreaths Across America program this weekend.
- The Garrison actively supports tenant initiatives such as establishment of a regional bio manufacturing hub.
- Recently installed 15 new (solar based) electric vehicle charging stations on APG; only for use by government vehicles.

**Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander**

- Fort Meade has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities as one of five “Great American Defense Communities” for 2023. COL Sapp described the partnership with the state of Maryland and other MMIC members as having an impact on achieving this recognition, and in particular the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation and its renovation of Kuhn Hall. Only project labeled for the installation which reflected the intent of the project.
- The Fort Meade Garrison and Fort Meade Alliance moderated a panel discussion on schools issues and juvenile jurisdiction concerns at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum in early November.
- Among many tenants, Fort Meade hosts a recruiting brigade, which is focused on bolstering Army recruiting in the region. Requesting systematic support from the State to push schools to support recruitment rather than school by school, where the principal makes recruitment decisions, as is the current process.
- The garrison expects funding to establish a 8 megawatt solar farm on the installation. Great opportunity for net carbon emissions and will be put out for bid for the community.

**Fort Detrick – Wil Plumley, Civilian Deputy to the Garrison Commander**

- The installation is receiving \$32M to demolish the old Steam Sterilization Facility, which is no longer in use.
- On 21 Sep there was a huge turn-out for Retiree Day with over 150 veterans/retirees and their spouses. Secretary Woods was the speaker with 40 different support agencies who had exhibit tables. Also had a guest speaker on the Medicare program. The next Retiree Day is planned for 19 Sep 2024.
- The garrison is having difficulty hiring childcare workers. Staffing at the on-post childcare facilities is at 57%. Need Help!!
- Mr. Plumley described support for the local JROTC program, and encouraged our other Maryland military communities to do the same. Needs support from the community for establishing or supporting recruitment for existing JROTC programs.

**Maryland National Guard – Tony Campbell, representing The Adjutant General, Maryland Military Department**

- The Maryland Military Department is working to retain the MDNG air mission at Martin State Airport in Middle River. Trying to keep fighter air guard mission in the state. Requests Maryland’s support on that concern.

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Lauren Hanyok, Digital Design & Manufacturing Lead NSWC Carderock Division, and Director Capital Tech Bridge (for CAPT Tardy)**

- Strong partnerships with the county for student outreach for pre-interns and fellowships.
- New PIA with Maryland based Pike District helping with outreach and licensing. Co-hosting simulcast for SBIR.
- CRADA with JHU for research opportunities. Sharing lab spaces and vice versa.

- K-12, JROTC, sea cadets coming to field trips for site visits. Haven't seen a lot of local school districts so have reached out to 18 of 24 counties to brief them on NSWC Carderock. Looking to get more involved in the classroom.
- Summer internships – have closed all calls for internships but going through review and application schedule and will share more at next MMIC. 77 students from UMD. Carderock was the 3rd top choice for the program.
- Expanded SMART program and also focused on veterans program and defense civilian training.

**Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River– Not represented**

**Naval Support Activity Bethesda – Not represented**

**Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented**

**Fort George G. Meade: A Great American Defense Community**

**Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director MMIC, and Board of Directors American Defense Communities**

Ms. Swoboda described the Association of Defense Communities' program which selects and designates five "Great American Defense Communities" every year. This is a competitive process and worthy of notable recognition. She showed a five minute video clip which highlighted several programs to increase quality of life for service members and families, both on and off post. Foremost among these programs was the renovation of Kuhn Hall into a education and resiliency center whose creation was funded by the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation. COL Sapp, Garrison Commander and Joe Pacileo, FMA President also added some personal remarks.

**Military Alliance President Remarks**

**Army Alliance (AA) – Sue Nappi, Executive Director**

- The Army Alliance annual breakfast on 30 November was successful, with a panel discussion on development of a regional bio-manufacturing hub.
- The Army Alliance will complete the last of a dozen or so interviews with APG tenant organization senior leaders seeking input to develop our federal and state legislative agendas.
- The Army Alliance is taking the lead on organizing the Maryland military alliance legislative lunch event at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis on 31 Jan.

**Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Christy Butler, Executive Director**

- The Alliance sponsored a quarterly networking breakfast on 18 October, with a speaker and focus on workforce recruiting, development and retention.
- The FDA will continue monthly networking breakfasts with a relevant topic.
- Frederick City has started a youth apprenticeship program.
- This coming weekend the Alliance will support the "Wreaths Across America" program at the Antietam battlefield.
- The FDA will participate in a prescreening on a motion picture entitled "Tribal," which focuses on the issues of veterans' suicide at Warehouse Cinema. Free event with networking and discussion. Christy to follow-up with details.

**Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Joe Pacileo, President**

- The FMA-sponsored “Key Leaders Series” luncheon on 27 October with Lt. Gen. Haugh, Deputy Commander for USCYBERCOM, was well attended and very successful.
- The 21 Oct FMA “Stars in Service” gala at the Arundel Mills Live casino was attended by nearly 400 people and raised \$100,000 for the FMA Foundation.
- FMA’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was on 3 October. This milestone will be celebrated at the FMA President’s Reception on 14 Dec at the BWI Hilton. Expect around 250 people in attendance.
- 20th year anniversary for FMA and lots of activity for the alliance and the base with the recognition from ADC. Raised \$5.4M for Kuhn Hall from the community.

**Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keene, President**

- The MTA board has been restructured to better distribute project support.
- Planning meetings with senior Navy leadership to express critical need and support to reconstitute premier shipbuilding capabilities at the Baltimore USCG Yard. Briefed on a strategic plan to reconstitute those capabilities. Fourth meeting on this issue.
- Suggestion that OMFA share a video about CGY intern program.

**Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President**

- The MAC is supporting the Indian Head revitalization described earlier.
  - Sponsored first annual outreach event to spread word on all the activities happening with Smart Arsenal
  - Indian Head Day outreach in November to reach out to private sector about revitalization efforts and Smart Arsenal
- Also a major focus on workforce development initiatives. Working on collaborating with SMNA and TPP to bring Southern Maryland 2030 to the county.
- Supporting Alliance reception at the end of January.

**Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – James Estep, President**

- There have been several senior leader change of command ceremonies in the past few months.
- Reiterated concern with license reciprocity.
- Working with Andrews spouses to provide airmen without family with comforts.
- ABCA is supporting an on-post school program called “Imagine Andrews.” Charter is coming up for renewal.

**Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Bonnie Green, Executive Director, The Patuxent Partnership**

- Bonnie Green from TPP provided comments on behalf of SMNA.
- The SMNA is advocating for additional MILCON to support labs and prototyping.
- SOMD 2030 capped out at 69 interns. Matching process will start at the beginning of 2024.
- Smart Career Awareness Fair with hands on demos from Pax River, contracting community, to make students aware of opportunities.
- Invited NSWC IH to see activities at NAS Pax River.
- Our next installation change of command is scheduled for Jan 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A high school competitive event is scheduled for Feb 24<sup>th</sup> with over 100 students from the state registered to attend.

## **State Agency Closing Remarks**

### **Department of Transportation – Suzanne Dorsey, Deputy Secretary**

- It appears the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project has survived the proposed Maryland transportation funding cuts.
- Working with Labor on filing construction roles/needs for all of the construction projects.

### **Department of Environment – Suzanne Dorsey, Deputy Secretary**

- Acknowledged the installations work on electrification to help the state meet its needs for greenhouse gas emissions and thanked them for their work.
- Engaged in environmental resilience, stormwater management, saltwater intrusion, and other areas.
- The Department is engaged in resiliency and of course will support the Military Installation Resiliency Review initiatives.
- DOE's #1 priority is equity in environmental policy and enforcement.

**Veterans Administration – Anthony Woods, Secretary**, thanked Ms. Swoboda and attendees for a well-run meeting, wished everybody happy holidays, and “See you next year!”

### **Conclusion**

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:40 am.