

Maryland Military Installation Council

2024 Annual Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE §11-207

Submitted by:

Maryland Department of Commerce

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Maryland Military Installation Council

2024 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 2024. 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 that the nation is in a constantly changing defense spending environment, the MMIC remains focused on the Department of Defense (DoD) 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 two times in 2024: March 11th and June 10th. These meetings were held in-person at the Maryland state office building at 100 Community Place in Crownsville. A third MMIC meeting scheduled for December 9th was postponed when a mold issue at the Crownsville facility was reported on December 5th. Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson chaired the June 10th meeting but was not available for the March 11th meeting. Both meetings were directed by Ms. Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Office of Military and Federal Affairs (OMFA). OMFA continues to provide direct support and coordinates all actions associated with the MMIC.

In addition to MMIC meetings, OMFA convened two stakeholder meetings in September and October 2024. On September 9, 2024, leaders from Maryland's eight military alliances gathered in Crownsville to discuss common issues such as membership expansion and retention and providing value to emerging businesses in the defense communities. The October 8, 2024, meeting gathered military installation commanders in Baltimore for discussions around common installation issues and avenues for engaging with State administrative agencies and legislature.

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 11th

- **Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs, and Executive Director of the MMIC** welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and recognized the cabinet members in attendance.
- **Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Student Support Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy, Maryland Department of Education, and Commissioner, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.** Ms. Gable

provided an overview of the DoD Purple Star Schools program, described the criteria to become a Purple Star School, and listed the eight Maryland schools that are already participating. Purple Star schools consider the unique situations and needs of the children of military families and seek to enable and ease the smooth transition of those students.

- **Panel Discussion: Understanding the Military Family**

Sonja Flannigan, 1st Vice President, APG Community Spouses Club

Miranda Wright, APG Community Spouses Club

Gari-Ann Kia, NAS Patuxent River Officer Spouses Club

The panelists were introduced and profiled by Lisa Swoboda. Each panelist described similar experiences:

- The challenges of frequent moves, specifically experiencing moving to Maryland
- Difficulties transitioning in and out of communities and the role of spouses' clubs and social media to reach military spouses and provide services and support
- Issues with school transitions, particularly transferring credits
- Spouse employment roadblocks

The panel comments generated substantial Q&A.

- **Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC**, provided a legislative update by highlighting several military and family-related initiatives in the current legislative session:

- A bill that supports hiring preferences for active-duty members and spouses
- A bill to create a commission for veterans and military families
- A Healthcare Occupations Temporary Licensure bill
- A Cosmetology Licensure Compact bill
- An Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact bill
- An anti-discrimination bill for military status
- Several bills on increasing the income tax deduction for military families
- A modification to MMIC membership to add State departments of Labor, Education, and a military spouse as statutory members
- Administration bills including the Time to Serve Act and the Families Serve Act

June 10th

- **Ms. Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC**, provided opening remarks and recognized the cabinet members in attendance.
- **Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce and MMIC Chair** welcomed attendees, noted that Governor Moore has declared 2024 as the “Year of Military Families,” and went on to describe associated legislative initiatives in support of military families. Secretary Anderson described a recent visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground as “impressive and fascinating.” He noted a new website to support tourism in Maryland, and provided an update on the Key Bridge collapse, emphasizing local and regional economic impacts.

- **Jordan Kayloe, Director of Air Service Development at BWI** provided an overview of BWI engagement to broaden air service to destinations that military families frequent.
- Keynote speaker, **Jagadeesh Pampulapati, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology** reviewed the DoD S&T enterprise and foundational S&T initiatives, laboratory infrastructure, S&T workforce issues and challenges in leading DoD research activities.
- **Amisha Downs, Assistant for Environmental Compliance, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment** reviewed the U.S. Army action plan for restoring and sustaining the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Yolanda Rayford, Director Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter, Blue Star Families** reviewed the results of the Maryland Blue Star Families 2023 survey. Issues include spouse employment, childcare, food insecurity, health care and social ties. Persistent themes include financial challenges, housing concerns and the impact of frequent family moves on children's education.

At both 2024 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 attached 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 avoid losing military mission, which equates to jobs, payroll, contracts, and significant 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 remains a persistent problem at most of the Maryland installations and surrounding communities.

- In addition to technical and cyber skills, commanders report difficulty in hiring childcare workers, mechanics, security forces, and other skilled labor. Workforce shortages persist at all Maryland installations.
- Continued engagement with our federal partners, and financial support of our seven military alliances are essential to maintaining the estimated \$64.1 billion statewide economic impact of our Maryland military installations.

The minutes of the March 11th and June 10th MMIC meetings follow.

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL
Monday, March 11, 2024; 0830-1145
Meeting Minutes

The first MMIC meeting of 2024 was conducted in-person at the state government building at Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included introductory remarks, briefings on the Purple Star Schools program and Military Family Services, a brief overview of state legislative initiatives relevant to military families, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, from the military alliance presidents, and from state agency members of the MMIC. Total attendance was 62.

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 the MMIC cabinet members in attendance.

Purple Star Schools: Maryland Overview

Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Student Support Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy, Maryland Department of Education, and Commissioner, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

- Purple Star schools consider the unique situations and needs of the children of military families to enable and ease the smooth transition of those students
- Ms. Gable described the criteria to become a Purple Star School and listed the eight schools in the state with the Purple Star designation \
 - Bellows Springs Elementary (Howard County), Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary (St. Mary's County), Kent Island High (Queen Anne's County), MacArthur Middle (Anne Arundel County), Meade High (Anne Arundel), Mt. Harmony Elementary (Calvert), Queen Anne's County High (Queen Anne's County), and West Meade Early Education Center (Anne Arundel County).

- Breakdown by county: 3 from Anne Arundel, 1 Howard, 1 St. Mary's, 2 Queen Anne's and 1 from Calvert.
- Each school must apply, but there is no limit or cap on the number of Purple Star schools in the state.
- The next round of applications will be received late summer or early fall
- For questions or further discussion: mary.gable@maryland.gov

An overview of the Q&A following the presentation can be found below:

Question: (Captain Wilson, USN, CO South Potomac) How does this work for DoDea schools

Answer: Assistance would not vary.

Question: If a parent deploys, the child can take off and not be counted tardy – does that count federal schools?

Answer: Yes, but MD Dept of Education does not have oversight over those schools.

Parents/students can take time off after a deployment but there needs to be a conversation about a reasonable amount of time off and any tests that may be missed.

Question: (COL Marsh, CO Fort Detrick) Fort Detrick has a great relationship with FCPS; what are talking points with the county executive/superintendent to pursue Purple Star status?

Answer: Mary will send information to Lisa about the program to distribute to commanders.

Reach out to the schools, however there is an application and it requires the superintendent's approval.

BWI Airline Service for the Military

Jordan Kayloe, Director of Air Service Development

- Mr. Kayloe was unavailable and will be rescheduled for the 10 June MMIC meeting.

Understanding the Military Family: Panel Discussion

Sonja Flannigan, 1st Vice President, APG Community Spouses Club

Miranda Wright, APG Community Spouses Club

Gari-Ann Kia, NAS Patuxent River Officers' Spouses Club

- The panelists were introduced and profiled. Each described similar experiences:
 - Challenge of frequent moves, specifically experiencing moving to Maryland
 - Difficulties transitioning in and out of communities and the role of spouses clubs and social media to reach military spouses and provide services and support
 - Issues with school transitions, particularly transferring credits
 - Spouse employment roadblocks

The panel received lots of questions from the audience and was well received. Some of the questions from the audience and the outcomes from that discussion are summarized below.

- What used to be “Officers Wives Clubs” should now be “Military Spouses Club” or “Community Spouses Club” due to the changing demographics of the military family and to be inclusive of all genders and family dynamics, including unmarried partners.
- Some support programs for transitioning service members and military families that were highlighted at Maryland installations and defense communities include:
 - JBA Sponsorship Program offered as a model for other services/bases for transition service members and families. Incoming airmen are paired with a sponsor within their unit of a similar grade/rank and with similar family dynamics (e.g. single, married, with kids, etc.) to help guide them with the transition.
 - JBA also created an app called JBA Connect that has all of the information for the base on that app so any new service members or interested parties can download the app and has info on who to connect to depending on the question/issue.
 - A non-federal nonprofit org, Community Salutes, hosts a “D-1 Signing Day” of H enlistees in Howard County.
- Importance of service opportunities for K-12 education:
 - (Mary Gable) Maryland is one of the only states that requires 75 hours of service for graduation. Some of it is embedded in curriculum like civics classes and some are outside of the classroom. Could still do a better job.
 - (Secretary of Labor Portia Wu) Maryland under the Blueprint for Schools is focused on getting students college and career ready and has funded career counselors for the first time through local workforce boards that are advising kids on their options, including military and government service. These positions have recently been hired within the last three months.
 - (Secretary of Labor Portia Wu) Maryland Governor Wes Moore has created a Maryland Corps and Service Option program which provides HS grads with the opportunity to take a “service year” creating new pathways to meet community needs, enhance workforce development, and promote preparedness for both higher and vocational education. The program within the newly created Department of Service and Civic Innovation will look to make military families aware of and engaged in this initiative.
- School rankings/scoring and homeschooling as an option for military families:
 - Scores online are not necessarily indicative of a school's performance and do not tell the whole story. The need to research school’s programs and parenting plays an important role.
 - (Lisa Terry, Manager of the Howard County Office for Veterans and Military Families) Great rating does not define a school. Encourages military families to get into schools, volunteer and get to know their programs. Howard County is working on recognizing students who have gotten into a service academy at graduation or will serve in the military after the graduation; not sure if MSDE can support. Encourages participation in Veterans Day or Memorial Day celebration

as well to get exposure to kids on what military service can mean; not just combat.

- (COL Sapp, Fort Meade CO) Homeschooling is an option to military families that provide stability but has heard from homeschooled families at Fort Meade that every state and county has different requirements for homeschooled students.
- (Mary Gable) Homeschooling families have to register the child through a homeschool program. Whether they can participate in sports or extracurriculars depend on the county/state jurisdiction as regulations can vary. Not sure about current regulations previously not allowed.
- Spousal employment remains a concern for military families
 - Areas that have schools of higher desirability have higher cost of living and hidden expenses that often require dual income. Also challenging to find affordable childcare inaccessible to many military families.
 - One panelist indicated that she was unable to find employment on base due to the green card status and by the time she found employment off-base and settled position, it was time to change station again. Can lead to employers discriminating against military spouses.
 - (Lisa) Proposed legislation in the 2024 legislative session to address discrimination against military families and service members.
- Difficulties with childcare and the impact on military families
 - Spousal clubs have connections in the community for childcare. Churches provide childcare but only for limited hours that are not sustainable for employment. Before and after school programs have a cost involved.
 - Childcare Aware Program takes 6 months to apply and get approval and reimbursement/ subsidy is not guaranteed; if you live outside of a radius or the base CCD(s) is full, the program subsidizes childcare costs at private centers. The six-month wait discourages families from applying. Making that process easier would help.
 - Most community childcare centers open at 6:30 am. Most military families need them open at 5:00 am in order to arrive for their PT on time.
- Two major issues impacting change of station and retirement decisions:
 - School choice: difficult to do in Maryland but can be coordinated at local level between counties and Maryland continues to look at other states' best practices.
 - State taxation of military retirement pay: Last year in the legislative session, Gov Moore supported a gradual total exemption of military retirement pay. There is a need to educate legislators on the value of the exemption from a workforce attraction perspective and less on the fiscal note impact. Two different bills currently for military retirement pay exemption are being considered by the state legislature during this year's session.
- To the commanders: "Military families will love you forever if you reach out and help them transition."

Networking Break 10:00-10:15

Maryland Legislative Updates

State Delegate Carl W. Jackson, District 8

- Delegate Jackson had conflicting legislative duties and regrets he was unable to attend.
- Ms. Swoboda highlighted several military and family related initiatives in the current legislative session. Specifically, she highlighted:
 - Bill that supports the state giving hiring preferences for active duty members and spouses
 - Bill to create a commission for veterans and military families
 - Healthcare Occupations Temporary Licensure bill, Cosmetology Licensure Compact bill
 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact bill
 - Anti-discrimination bill for military status
 - Several bills on income tax deduction for military families
 - Modification to MMIC membership to add state departments of Labor, Education, military spouse as statutory members
 - Administration bills including the Time to Serve Act and the Families Serve Act
- A full list of military-related bills will be provided to attendees as a follow-up.

Blue Star Families: Annual Military Families Survey

Yolanda Rayford, Director, Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter, Blue Star Families

- Ms. Rayford had to cancel due to illness. She will brief on the newly released 2024 survey at the 10 June MMIC.
- The Blue Star Military Family Survey results are scheduled for release tomorrow, 12 March.

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

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

- Busy season upcoming with graduation; expects over 1M visitors to the area over next two months, bolstering local economy
- The Navy Community College program at Quantico is moving to the Naval Academy. College will be 100% virtual, however 100 employees are relocating to NSA Annapolis, so there will be some local economic growth to the region as a result.

- The Bancroft Hall (midshipman dorm) renovations continue with some construction and a study on renovations planned for next year.
- NSA Annapolis has two CCDs and has 30 military families on the waitlist who have priority, plus civilians who are ranked lower priority. Looking into a third on-base CCD or at subsidizing childcare for military families to use off-base CCD's.
- There are discussions about potential use of "The Naval Academy Dairy Farm" site for solar energy production. An RFI is out to the renewable industry to see what is possible with solar and other renewable energy projects on that site.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Alan Christian, Commanding Officer

- Continuing with construction through 2028 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center encourages people to check their website to see what gates are open for visitors.
- Two on-base CCDs with waitlists and working on prioritizing that list. No on-base housing so it is challenging for commuters to drop off children off base with traffic issues in the area.
- Parking is a perennial problem, with no apparent quick fixes. They average over 10,000 individuals each day commuting to the 243-acre campus. Parking garages are all full; one is still down for construction and will be up and running in August.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Matt Tardy, Commanding Officer

- NSWC Carderock has 2800 Navy civilians engaged in research and development.
- Activities to build future workforce include STEM programs with high school students, scholarships and internships. NSWC Carderock is bringing on about 120 students this summer and encourages the community to support.

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

- NSF Indian Head has begun a 10 year \$2.7B Energetics Comprehensive Modernization P (ECMP) which will also result in 600 additional employees.
- The Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) will become a Joint organization, which will increase the total uniformed population of on-base.
- As an action to reduce the "gate running" at the main gate - NSF Indian Head has more occurrences than any other navy base - a three-phased response is in place. Phase 1 completed with additional signage in town that the base entrance is upcoming. Phase 2 has started with the installation diverting after hour and weekend traffic to a secondary entrance away from the main entrance. The third phase will require a study and plan for

traffic calming solutions (not begun) to include improvements to Route 210, a state managed highway.

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

- NAS Pax hosted a visit with Governor Moore last month; highlighted that the CCDs at Pax River are 100% staffed and highlighted Fleet and Families support center, also fully staffed.
- The installation is supporting several initiatives to support military children and families. School liaison officer Dawn Simpson has been especially effective and sees Purple Star Schools Program growth for the state.
- The base continues to have difficulty in hiring, particularly with security guards.

Joint Base Andrews – Col. Todd Randolph, Installation and 316th Wing Commander

- JBA hosted a Change of Responsibility for the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, the top enlisted member in the service.
- The annual “State of the Base” briefing is scheduled for 10 April with local and community leaders.
- JBA hosted its 6th annual STEAM Summit for middle/high school students for aviation technology which included presentations from various teams/commands on the base. Participating students competed in competitions. The event is organized by Krist Zimmerman and the base welcomes other installations to participate in next year's events.
- This year, JBA is hosting several aircraft as a result of the national election and as a result of the national NATO summit in DC. For the NATO Summit all NATO countries are flying in and will host a flight crew starting on July 4th during holiday.
- Col. Randolph will rotate this summer to a fellowship in New York City for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Phil Mundweil, Garrison Commander

- The Senior Mission Commander, MG Robert Edmondson will retire this summer. The incoming SMC is BG James Turnetti.
- APG Immersion Day on 21 March; base will host educators from Harford and Cecil County to familiarize themselves with technology from APG. COL Mundweil will reach out to Mary Gable about this for coordination.
- Great support from local communities
 - The Harford County emergency operations center backs up APG emergency ops. A full-scale exercise is planned across the installation on 24 April and the base is

receiving assistance from Harford County on this exercise. Base is also engaged in a county-hosted full-scale exercise on 16 April at Peach Blossom Nuclear Power Plant.

- There is notable support from the Harford County Veterans Commission.
- Cecil County recognizes contributions from the base, including that they are the largest employer for the county and have also started a Veterans Commission to support the veterans/retiree community within the county.

Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander

- Both COL Marsh and Senior Mission Commander BG Edward Bailey will be rotating this summer.
- The installation is averaging 280 days to fill a position through USA Jobs. Unacceptable!
- MDE obligation \$32M to decommission the old steam plant is fully approved; win for the community.
- Transportation issues are the number one concern for Fort Detrick, particularly US-15.
 - Lyn Farrow (MDOT, Director of External Affairs): planning is ongoing despite state budget cuts; commission working to develop new funding streams for transportation project
- COL Marsh recognized the role of OMFA in supporting the installations and the symbiotic relationship between the base and the community. Recognized Jen Staiger and Fort Detrick Alliance's work to support the base.

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- COL Sapp will rotate this summer, with a change of command date set for 6 August. CSM Welch has a change of responsibility date set for 26 April.
- Base is proud that Anne Arundel County has three Purple Star Schools of the eight total schools and that all three are within the Meade cluster.
- The new dual-hatted NSA/CYBERCOM commander is GEN Timothy Hough, who is very supportive of the Meade schools cluster. GEN Hough wants the Meade Cluster to be a model for the community and has a goal that service members will choose to retire to the area rather than move again. Transition is a disruption to families and there is a need to explore support stability for families.
- Meade High School is under renovation, supported with a \$100M DoD grant from the Officer Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony planned with community stakeholders when completed. This Fall will be the first year the renovated school can host students.
- The Garrison is coordinating with Anne Arundel County to pursue a grant from OLDCC to support a Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) for the base, identifying and

addressing three within the community that could negatively impact the base's resilience. Looking at transportation issues like the MD-198 bridge that keeps getting washed out in addition to concerns.

- Discussed the importance of IGSA's to save money for the federal government and invest in the community.
- Pre-Covid Color Guard event "Massing of the Colors" is returning this year, scheduled 19 May.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT David Obermier, Commanding Officer

- The Coast Guard Yard (CGY) continues to provide worldwide support
- CGY is finally almost caught up on filling vacant civilian workforce positions, however, the notable experience gap requires targeted training.
- CGY is looking at ships to be decommissioned and accelerating that plan for refurbishing for foreign military sales.
- Maryland hosted the Antarctic and Arctic Symposium and the keynote spoke to threats in the areas and how the Coast Guard plays a role in maintaining ice breakers.
- NSA Annapolis and Fort Meade CCDs support their members.

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

- The Adjutant General is dual-hatted as a Department Secretary and as the Commander of the Maryland National Guard.
- The Maryland Military Department has been working to retain the MDNG air mission at Marti State Airport in Middle River. However, the Air Force just announced decommissioning of the A10 airframe, and the transition to a cyber related mission. This will impact the local workforce and potentially the regional economy.
- Aviation Day at Fort McHenry is scheduled for 23 March.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Military Alliance President Remarks

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Steve Mitchell, President

- NSF Indian Head hosted the CNO Admiral Franchetti and Senator Cardin in February and scheduled to host a visit from Congressman Hoyer on 19 March.
- The Indian Head "State of the Station" address was presented on 29 February.

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) – Tom Garrison, President

- The installation hosted a very successful visit with Governor Moore last week.
- Mr. Garrison mentioned the upcoming ADC conference and encouraged other installation communities to attend.

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

- Fort Meade and the surrounding area was recognized by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) as one of five 2023 Great American Defense Communities.
- Mr. O’Ferrall will host the Army Town Hall opening session of the ADC Policy Forum conference on 8 April.
- “Friends of Meade” is a new advocacy group in support of the Ft. Meade school cluster, led by Chad Jones, the garrison Public Affairs Officer.
- The FMA annual acquisition outlook breakfast conference with NSA, CYBERCOM and DISA acquisition leaders is scheduled for 3 April.
- The FMA-sponsored Project Scope has reached 700 students this year to emphasize the importance of personal conduct in obtaining a security clearance as they enter their work years.
- The Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center has been open and providing services for just over a year, and is exceeding expectations.
- An FMA-sponsored Career Transition Pilot Program for service members and spouses is scheduled for 25 April at Maryland Live in Arundel Mills. Counseling and resume prep from at least 20 employers will be available.

Army Alliance (AA) – Mike Ray, President

- The Alliance annual luncheon meeting was held last week; the annual dinner meeting scheduled 3 June.
- Mary Jane Jernigan, Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army and a Harford County resident will be recognized as one of several Association of Defense Community Champions.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Jennifer Staiger, President

- Fort Detrick continues to be the largest employer in Frederick County.
- Most of the tenant organizations are engaged in research and development and related missions, which require a very technical workforce.
- The Alliance has been working with Fort Detrick and workforce services to support the MRDC and other tenants to identify resources for attracting and hiring workers, to include apprenticeship programs.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Not represented

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

State Agency Closing Remarks

Veterans Affairs – Ross Cohen, Deputy Secretary

- Commented on three pending legislative initiatives:
 - The “Families Serve Act” that will provide military spouses 10 points in the Maryland state hiring process.
 - The “Time to Serve Act” would provide additional leave to Reserve and National Guard service members preparing for and returning from deployments.
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs to be renamed as the Department of Veteran Affairs and Military Families, with the addition of a Deputy Secretary for Military Families.

Department of Labor – Ms. Portia Wu, Secretary of Labor

- Very glad to have the Department of Labor become an official member of the MMIC.
- We currently have active workforce programs that support career counseling for veterans and military spouses.

Department of Transportation – Ms. Lyn Farrow, Director of External Affairs

- Governor Moore created a Maryland Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Need Commission that is charged with exploring alternative funding sources to meet the state’s growing transportation needs including options for public-private partnerships.

Department of Environment – Scott Bowman, Chief of Staff

- The EPA is about to release standards for PFAS, which could require assessment and possibly remediation on military installations.

Announcement: Kristin Byerly, MMIC member and Director of Veterans Initiatives for the University Maryland Global Campus, noted the MilVet Net event scheduled at the College Park Marriott and Conference Center on April 23 from 4-7pm. This no-charge networking event is open to everyone across the state of MD with a military connection looking to network with veteran service organizations, employers, and entrepreneurial resources.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and adjourned the session at 11:45 am.

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, 10 June 2024; 0830-1145

Meeting Minutes

The second MMIC meeting of 2024 was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included Chairman's introductory remarks, briefings on BWI Airline Service, DoD S&T program impact in Maryland, the Army Chesapeake Bay Strategy, update on the Blue Star Families annual survey, plus updates from the Maryland installation and base commanders, from the military alliance presidents, and from state agency members of the MMIC. Total attendance was 65.

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 the MMIC cabinet members in attendance.

Chairman's Introductory Remarks

Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson

- Secretary Anderson noted that Governor Moore declared this as the year of the military family, with numerous legislative initiatives in support, including:
 - Time to Serve Act
 - Maryland Joins Forces Campaign
 - Employment, Food & Housing
 - SB214 to expand the MMIC, including adding a military spouse
- Establishment of a new website to promote tourism and attract workforce, liveworkmaryland.com, to address Maryland's workforce concerns.
- He noted a recent visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground as impressive and fascinating, and expressed intent to visit more of our installations.
- Provided an update on the Key Bridge situation, noting that the full channel will be open soon and volume at the Port of Baltimore will ramp up again. Recognized that there are 9,000 workers at the Port and that the state is providing funding to support port employees unable to work.

BWI Airline Service for the Military

Jordan Kayloe, Director of Air Service Development

- Mr. Kayloe provided an overview of how BWI airport engages airlines to broaden service to locations that military and families frequent.
- Among notable statistics, BWI traffic was 26.2M passengers last year, 70% on Southwest.
- Data was presented on where fliers through BWI reside - an equal amount between the DC and metro Baltimore area.

- Air Service Development manages sales between airlines and the airport, to increase the number of routes at BWI for business and leisure travelers and grow traffic for unserved and underserved routes, which increases competition among airlines, lowering airfares.
- Important for Air Service Development to understand the regional market and the needs of local travelers to pitch that data to the airlines; asked for feedback from the community on in-demand or needed routes.

Keynote Speaker: DoD S&T Program, with focus on Maryland

Jagadeesh Pamulapati, PhD, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science & Technology (S&T) Foundations

- Dr. Pamulapati has oversight and policy for all DoD foundational S&T initiatives, advocating for laboratory infrastructure, supporting S&T workforce, and leading research development.
- Reviewed the DoD S&T enterprise (see attached charts).
- Key takeaways from the presentation:
 - There are 16 Communities of Interest (COI) technology areas that the DoD is interested in, including Autonomous vehicles, Space, Cyber, Biomedical research, Advanced Electronics, Air Platforms, and more.
 - Mr. Pamulapati provided information on the DoD laboratory space in Maryland.
 - Highlighted two funding programs:
 - The DoD's Central Laboratory Investment Program (CLIP) program which supports infrastructure needs and noted two CLIP locations in Maryland at Adelphi (AI) and Indian Head (Combustion).
 - Laboratories also have authority to take up to 4% of funding for reinvestment in workforce, research, infrastructure or tech transfer via the FLEX 4 program. Two examples of FLEX-4 spending in MD at DEVCOM ARL for Electromagnetic Bioeffects program and at NSWC IHEODTD for novel propulsion systems.
 - Presented on the landscape of federally funded research and development centers and university affiliated research centers. One of the oldest and largest UARCs is JHU APL. Also noted ARLIS's work in human behavioral sciences for intelligence security agencies within the DoD.
 - Provided an overview of the SBIR/STTR program and the OSD Transitions SBIR Technologies (OTST) office which creates a transition pipeline for early-stage technologies, maturing to prototype level, and generating partnerships with program offices for eventual incorporation.
 - SBIR/STTR awardees in MD: nearly \$8M in Phase 1 funding, \$50M in Phase 2
 - Provided an overview of the DoD's Basic Research Office, including Technical and International Programs, Diversity, STEM programs, Research Policy and BRO oversight.
 - BRO provides grants to Universities - UMD and JHU APL have eight active grants collectively.
 - investment in Maryland HBCUs/MIs, including work at Morgan State, establishing it as Center for Excellence in Materials Science and elevation award for increasing the amount of research funding received (R1 v R2).

- Reviewed DoD STEM programs and research leveraging labs and partner orgs managing programs for the K-20 education level, reaching about 1M students and 40k educators.
 - Reviewed Critical Technology Areas (CTA) for DoD - Secretary established 14 CTAs, manages four of those areas, and the other 10 are managed by other Asst Secretaries. Largest investment in MD is in non-CTA areas but has potential to be CTAs.
 - See website: <https://www.ctoinnovation.mil/>
- Q&A:
 - Q (Ivan Caplan): What's the process for identifying gaps in S&T areas and opportunities? Annual?
- The Navy is the lead for the Chesapeake Bay action team and Ms. Down's office represents the Army. The Navy was involved in the development of the strategy.
- Ms. Downs provided the Army's goals for the Chesapeake Bay strategy, including restoring and sustaining the Bay and tributaries water quality, restoring and sustaining living resources and healthy habitats on Army installations, strengthening stormwater management practices to maintain a healthy watershed, and foster Chesapeake Bay Stewardship.
- Next steps are to develop and execute the implementation through Army installation environmental staff to execute strategy recommendations.
- Provided a website for the project to view the project storymap: <https://denix.osd.mil/army-chesapeake>
- During a brief Q&A session, a request from Secretary Flora to connect Ms. Downs with the State's commissions on the Chesapeake Bay.

Networking Break 10:00-10:15

Blue Star Families: Annual Military Families Survey

Yolanda Rayford, Director, Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter, Blue Star Families

- Ms. Rayford provided information on Blue Star Families and reviewed the 2023 MD Blue Star Families survey results. Focus areas included spouse employment, childcare, food insecurity, health care and social ties. (See executive summary provided. Full survey results are available at this link: <https://bluestarfam.org/research/mfls-2023/>)
- The survey period was for March 15th and May 27th, 2023.
- Thematically, the biggest issues remain: financial challenges, housing concerns, and the impact of PCS on children's education.
- Most respondents are spouses and family members of active-duty service members.
- Most respondents say they need childcare, and many cannot work due to the cost of childcare.
- 13% of respondents report food insecurity and require the use of food pantries and other services.

- 36% of respondents report waiting two months or more for healthcare.
- The number of respondents reporting that they would recommend military service to family or friends is going down.

Q&A Session:

- Q (Krist Zimmerman): How to help Blue Star Families get more respondents?
 - A: For 2024 there are going to be around 9k respondents; survey results are yet to be released. Since they have begun the Blue Star Families survey, they have received over 100k responses. From the receipt of information, not all the responses will count. They communicate information about the survey to potential respondents, and there are barriers which they are looking to address.
- Q (Sec Flora): Can you drill down further on childcare data?
 - A: Does not have that statistic at hand.
 - Secretary Flora notes childcare is a statewide and national issue, and Blueprint for Education is looking at childcare and how it affects employment.
- Q (Lisa): On average, a third of respondents are paying more for housing than the BAH. Is that specific to MD?
 - A: National data. Will send more data to attendees via email. Comprehensive data on the Blue Star Families survey is on the website, and encourages attendees to visit.
- Q (Lisa): What is the source of the new question on social engagement and interaction?
 - A: Added that question post-COVID19 pandemic to address mental health challenges identified in the 2022 survey. A number of programs and services have been provided to address these concerns, and this question was added to assess social engagement impact.
- Q (CAPT Schwarz): The Spouse Employment Act and a lot of other activities focused on addressing other concerns for military families, but what other actions are happening to address these concerns?
 - A: Blue Star Families has over 100 employees working remotely and are implementing an Action Plan. Our government relations team has been lobbying for legislative changes to address childcare.
- Q (Matt Scassero): A lot of these issues are being addressed through other organizations like MOAA. Is Blue Star Families partnering with other advocacy organizations?
 - A: Yes, the data within the annual survey is shared with those organizations and it is an all-hands effort requiring collaboration. Working with MOAA, Hire our Heroes, etc.

Maryland Military Installation Commander Updates

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Phil Mundweil, Garrison Commander

- APG Senior Mission Commander, MG Edmunson, had a change of command and retirement ceremony on 7 June. The incoming commander, BG James Turinetti will assume command on 28 Jun.

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Biomanufacturing Facility in the Edgewood area is scheduled for 12 June. This site will produce essential materials for energetics and other projects, addressing EO to support a regional biomanufacturing economy.
- The 249th Army birthday will be celebrated on 14 June. The Ironbirds (Aberdeen baseball team) will host a military appreciation night with fireworks on the 14th.
- The Army Test & Evaluation Command will host a change of command for MG Gallivan on 10 July. The Network Cross-Functional Team will also host a change of command this summer.
- DEVCOM will host a legislative visit to APG on July 18th to display new weapons systems being tested on APG via DEVCOM.

Fort Detrick – COL Ned Marsh, Garrison Commander

- On June 18th Rachel Jacobsen, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment will preside at a ribbon cutting ceremony to a Battery Energy Storage initiative on leased Ft. Detrick property. Will help meet the installation's energy needs.
- \$32M has been obligated for destruction of the old steam plant.
- The Forest Glen Annex commissary building needs structural upgrades, requiring temporary closure. More to follow as a decision is made as to whether it can be corrected.
- BG Bailey, the Ft. Detrick Senior Mission Commander, will change command with incoming MG Modi on July 10th.
- COL Marsh recognized the impact of the MMIC, and thanked those who have provided support during his tenure. He will change command on July 23rd.

Fort Meade – COL Michael Sapp, Garrison Commander

- COL Sapp will change command with incoming COL Yolanda Gore on 6 Aug, the first female garrison commander of Fort Meade.
- The new solar array at Fort. Meade apparently cannot be connected to the local grid because Ft. Meade is not officially a Maryland municipality. Need to address with BGE.
- Three of the eight Maryland Purple Star Schools are in the Fort Meade cluster.
- Fort Meade is supporting Anne Arundel County in application for a DoD resiliency grant through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) for an installation resilience review.
- Recognized that a recent fire in the housing area of Fort Meade had three fire departments from 12 locations, including BWI, respond and this showcased the interconnectedness of the community and how key those relationships are.
- The Cooper Avenue upgrades will start with a ground-breaking ceremony.
- The Fort Meade “Red, White & Blue” celebration is scheduled for 28 June.

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis – CAPT Christopher Schwarz, Commanding Officer, and also interim Commanding Officer NSA South Potomac (Indian Head and Dahlgren)

- The Navy is responding to a lawsuit on weapons testing in the Potomac due to testing done by NSF Dahlgren that impacts the river, which is in Maryland’s territory. The Navy is working with MDE to pursue a permit to continue weapons testing.
- Lots of concert events at NSA Annapolis and NSASP Dahlgren.

- NSA South Potomac is participating in a requested traffic study at Indian Head between the main gate and route 227 intersection on route 210. The community, led by the Southern Maryland Tri county Council, has submitted an installation resilience grant to the DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. This resulted from significant gate crashes at the entrance gate, as well as the increased traffic on the road area resulting from the installation growth.
- NSA Annapolis continuing efforts to improve resiliency at Greenbury Point through berm and shoreline restoration efforts. Hosted MD CoDel staffers to tour resilience projects at Academy. Working on the seawall but need more funding.
- An RV park will be established as a part of Greenbury; town hall at NEX to discuss this on Wednesday.
- Pursuing renewable energy at the old Dairy Farm; industry day this Thursday to discuss what is possible. Hosted two community events working with Gambrills community and working with the county to see what else they want to see at the Dairy Farm.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Alan Christian, Commanding Officer

- We have ongoing construction which causes changing traffic patterns. Looking for opportunities to partner with the public to address road issues.
- We have focused on QOL initiatives, with improvements in barracks and MWR programs.
- Hosted Earth Day with Montgomery County for tree planting.
- Conducting periodic joint exercises with community law enforcement.
- Currently hiring for childcare positions.
- Our long-range planning includes transportation and parking solutions.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – Dave Drezen, Chief Technology Officer

- CAPT Tardy has been alerted to a new assignment. Uncertain on who will be the incoming commander, or when that will occur.
- Renamed the main conference facility building after Ray Montague, the Hidden Figure of the Navy Ship Modeling design. The renaming required SECNAV approval.
- This summer NSWCCD is hosting 154 students, in several different capacities.
- Regarding Tech Transfer, recently signed a Partnership Intermediary Agreement to continue to develop the ship design community as the Navy tries to design the next destroyer.

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

- Held an event at NAS Pax River for local high school graduating students at the recreation center, funded by MD State's Attorney's Office. This is a long-standing tradition with the St Mary's schools and the installation.
- Southern Maryland has two Purple Star schools within the NAS Pax River cluster.
- NAS Pax has awarded a 50-year facilities privatization contract for water & sewer service and maintenance.

Joint Base Andrews – Col. Todd Randolph, Installation and 316th Wing Commander

- In April JBA hosted a State of the Base event with local leaders and elected officials.

- Every service is represented on base, including the MD State Troopers. The 89th airlift wing greets AF One. The 113th national guard also on JBA patrols Capitol airspace. The 459th Reserve Air Fueling Wing refuels aircraft in the air as needed, a strategic enterprise to support global reach. All these missions require support.
- The Andrews Business and Community Alliance has been helpful in advocating for the installation and QOL initiatives. They provide a bridge to business leaders and legislators. Recognized their work at Imagine Andrews charter school.
- JBA hosted Earth Week activities in April and recognized MDE's support of those events, as well as National Police Week observation in May, on which the base partnered with PG County police.
- This week Lt. Gov. Miller will speak at the Small Business Conference hosted by JBA.
- On 9-11 July JBA will support the NATO Summit in DC, with 39 countries landing aircraft at JBA.
- Col. Randolph's change of command ceremony is scheduled for 2 July.

Maryland National Guard – COL Craig Hunter, representing The Adjutant General, Maryland Military Department

- Initiated an educational partnership in April with University of Maryland Eastern Shore.
- Notified on 6 June that Maryland will be designated for a STARBASE program to be located at Martin State Airport. This is a STEM program that provides students with real world applications of technology.
- MDNG will host a business and elected leader flight day at Weide Airfield (Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood Area) on 12 June to promote awareness of the MDNG and strengthen relationships with the community.

Coast Guard Yard – Not represented

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Military Alliance President Remarks

Army Alliance (AA) – Mike Ray, President

- The Army Alliance held its annual dinner meeting on 3 June. Maryland Senator Dawn Gile was the featured speaker, with a message on legislative initiatives to support Maryland military families.

On 29 April, the Alliance's legislative lead was in DC meeting with CoDel staffers for MD, DC, PA, and DE. The Alliance is assisting in the formation of a Maryland Defense Research Coalition to

- advocate for a legislative amendment to enable the Chemical Biological Center to conduct certain types of chemical agent R&D.
- The Alliance is supporting a Harford County/APG resiliency grant application to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation for a military installation resilience review.
- With a large turnover in APG senior leadership this summer, the Alliance will provide orientation briefings to incoming leaders.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Jennifer Staiger, President

- The Alliance is engaging business and military leaders in “Business Before Hours” and “Business After Hours” events. Upcoming event on 27 June from 5-7 pm. This is one way for businesses to get engaged with installation leadership and build contractual relationships.
- The 15th annual Tech Showcase is scheduled for 17 October. This event also contributes to relationships with Ft. Detrick tenant organizations and local defense businesses.

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

- FMA is in the midst of a pilot program, the Career Transition program, to assist service members transitioning into their next careers. There were 109 applicants in pilot year; 50 participated in a “hiring day” event; and 35 received offers. Funding is available to continue next year.
- The “Friends of Meade” initiative is funded by a local development council to support schools in the Fort Meade cluster. Included is funding for two teachers for a summer internship at Fort Meade.
- The FMA program “Business in a Minute” was recently completed with NSA. The DISA session is scheduled.
- Annual meeting will be held on 13 June where they will say a farewell to Col Sapp.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keane, President

- Working with Carderock, Navy, and the congressional delegation to reconstitute the former world-class ship design capabilities.
- Also working on funding for a new dry dock at the Coast Guard Yard, with preliminary dredging of Curtis Creek. Hoping to get funds added to Key Bridge initiatives to address this work.
- Providing continued support to several STEM initiatives:
 - Let’s Go Boys & Girls
 - Biannual International Submarine Races
 - Maritime Digital Harbor Program

Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) – Tom Garrison, President

- Recent briefing of the Governor at NAS Pax River supported by Bonnie Green with The Patuxent Partnership.
- Dale Moore will become SMNA’s new president.
- SMNA will have a role in the new MD Aerospace Commission.
- Introduced Bonnie Green, who described the summer internship program, starting today with a cohort of 43 interns. Of the 41 who participated last year, 10 continued with employment on the base.

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation, announced that the next MMIC meeting is planned for December, and adjourned the session at 11:45 am.

End of Maryland Military Installation Council 2024 Annual Report.