



## **Q1 2022 Meeting Summary and Minutes Governor's Military Council**

April 19, 2022

Gordon Conference Center, BLDG 270  
Los Angeles Air Force Base, California 90245

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 7:46am.

### Roll Call:

#### Members Present:

- Chair of the Delegation, Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, United States Coast Guard (Retired)
- Vice Chair, Lieutenant General Ed Hanlon, Jr., United States Marine Corps (Retired)
- Secretary Vito Imbasciani, M.D., California Department of Veterans Affairs
- Rear Admiral Jim Johnson, United States Navy (Retired)
- Mr. Jeffrey Klein, Senior Executive Service, United States Navy (Retired)
- Eileen Sanchez present for Chief Deputy Director Scott Morgan, representing Office of Planning and Research Director Sam Assefa
- Major General Eldon Regua, United States Army Reserves (Retired)
- Major General Alice Astafan, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Major General Tony Jackson, United States Marine Corps (Retired)
- Major General Craig Cooning, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago, United States Army Reserves (Retired)
- Mr. Tom Berard, SES, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hackleman, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Colonel Fred Meurer, United States Army (Retired)
- Mr. Derek Kirk (GO-Biz) joined at 9:00am
- Lieutenant Colonel Charmaine Betty-Singleton, California State Guard (Legal Counsel)

Member Guests:

- Mr. Dennis Fitzgerald, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting
- Mr. Chris Buthe, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting
  
- After noting that a quorum was established, Council Chair Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge (US Coast Guard, Retired) asked Councilmember Major General Alice Astafan (US Marine Corps, Retired) to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Welcome:**

LA AFB Garrison Commander Colonel Becky Beers greeted the Council and thanked them for their work on the part of Airmen and Guardians, awarding the members air base patch commemorating their visit.

Chair Breckenridge welcomed the group to the meeting and members of the public attending virtually and in person. She reminded the group they are not permitted to communicate with one another electronically during the meeting then invited each Councilmember to introduce themselves and speak briefly on their experience in the military and current efforts. Wanted the Council to be aware of all the talent and insights on the Council.

Members of the Public (in person):

Mr. Tom Lasser, President, South Bay Aerospace Alliance  
Mr. Edwin Peura, Vice President, South Bay Aerospace Alliance

Members of the Public (online):

Mr. Urvishkumar Mehta  
Ms. Monica Banken, South Bay Aerospace Alliance  
Mr. Chris Burns, Office of Senator Bates  
Mr. Suli Kenyatta, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment:**

Chair Breckenridge informed the public there are three minutes allotted for each member of the public to address the Council and that the Council may take no action that is offered in public comment if it is not a previously-agendized item.

Mr. Tom Lasser, President of South Bay Aerospace Alliance, spoke first, welcoming the Council to the South Bay. Vice President Ed Peura spoke next, informing the Council that the Governor's Office asked 8 or 9 years ago to stand

up a support group for LA AFB and provided a brief history of the organization, the South Bay Aerospace Alliance, and its advocacy for the base since inception. He concluded by asking the Council to consider expanding its efforts to include other countries and thanked the Council for expanding efforts in the cybersecurity command space.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Consideration of Action Items:**

Councilmember Rear Admiral Johnson made a motion to approve the Q4 2021 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Imbasciani seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion with a unanimous verbal vote in favor.

### **Agenda Item 4 - Member Agency Updates and Council Discussion Items**

1. Eileen Sanchez, Chief, Defense Industry Cybersecurity Resilience and Innovation and CASCADE Program Director at Office of Planning and Research provided a thorough presentation to the Council of both the CASCADE and CADENCE grants, noting that June of 2023 is the last of the funding source for CASCADE.

Guest presenter, Chris Buthe, Manager of Cyber Physical Security Services at California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, to speak specifics about CADENCE programs. Overall, Mr. Buthe spoke about the need to create workforce development and how the grant develops better cyber acumen through social engineering. He concluded by explaining how grant executors learned from the CASCADE grant, which was open to anyone, but CADENCE now prioritizes the warfighter and DoD.

Councilmembers asked about connecting CADENCE's consulting assistance with veterans who want to start their own business, potentially through CALVET and its CalTAP with this program for veterans.

The presentation concluded with Councilmembers discussing how to keep options open about Space Force and potential opportunities for growth there.

2. California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary, Dr. Vito Imbasciani, briefed the Council on the current status of veterans in the state, noting that for the first time the state population will drop below one million, despite having the largest veteran population than any other state. He touted the state's recent Disabled Veterans Enterprise Program whereby law every state agency must spend 3% on their budget on veteran programs and outreach.

He also informed the Council of recent efforts to address the ability of veterans to purchase homes through the CALVET home loan program, acknowledging

that a recent count of Skid Row in LA at midnight resulted in a substantial count of 11,200 homeless veterans.

Finally, Secretary Imbasciani updated the group on the efforts of veteran courts, the potentially new veterans cemetery in the state and new outreach programs to Native American veterans.

3. Representing Dee Dee Myers, Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), Community-Based Solutions Supervisor Derek Kirk briefed virtually on efforts in the state regarding defense industry, specifically speaking on the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), which uses a \$600 million fund appropriated with state general fund dollars and managed on interagency basis by GO-Biz, OPR and Labor & Workforce Development Agency to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID

He also spoke on the increasing interest of DoD to invest in the greater central coast, citing the Vandenberg Space Force Base as a finalist for the STARCOM citing, and the state's corresponding investments to support and entice federal investment.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director Update**

1. Executive Director Jon Siepmann led the Council in a discussion of their FY23 federal priorities. Chair Breckenridge explained to the Council that the letter typically goes to the Congressional Delegation in June for the upcoming budget cycle and asked that the Councilmembers inform the Executive Director and Chair on projects and priorities they have in case amendments to the priorities are required.

Councilmember Andrew Hackleman spoke on Space Force efforts and priorities in the Central Coast, citing STARCOM (Space Training Command) as a big opportunity for the state and has a lot of space equities, noting that existing VSFB is historically location for a lot of space training.

Councilmember Jeffrey Klein posited that the Council should meet yearly to go over priorities, acknowledging that MILCON funding is just one option for improvement on bases.

Councilmember Fred Meurer agreed, stating that the state will never be able to appropriate its way out of a backlog of maintenance, renovation and updates on installations that instead the Council should be considering the multitude of tools available and how to accelerate decision-making processes, helping Congress to understand there are other authorities or ways to address issues by

using other people's money or partnerships, such as Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs).

The Council then transitioned to discussing the need for additional focus on space and the Defense Innovation Unit within state government. There was general agreement and discussion on the roles of GO-Biz and OPR in these domains and how the Council can promote concerns, issues and solutions to the Congressional Delegation.

2. ED Siepmann provided a history and update on the Ukraine Task Force, explaining that the California National Guard (CANG) has had a relationship with Ukraine since 1993; whereby it provides training and exchanges best practices. He stated that CANG helped Ukraine build the force that is much more capable than the Russian Force thought. He explained that the CANG Adjutant General called everyone in the Guard who had military experience in Ukraine to open lines of communication, obtaining things like critical needs of equipment and training into the hands of decision makers on the US side and coordinating humanitarian aid such as excess law enforcement equipment and getting it into the hands of Ukrainians. On the humanitarian side, he explained that CALOES is also engaged in helping as one of the largest Ukraine diasporas exists in Sacramento (somewhere around 80K) and will likely increase to another 100K as a result of current tensions in the region.

3. Finally, ED Siepmann spoke to the Council about the Work for Warriors program which matching military experience with business needs and provides a coaching component on job placement, resume building and interview skills.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Staff Update on Council's Current Efforts**

1. Staff Policy Director Allison Henderson briefed the Council on recent legislation in the state, including a bill from Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi which adds the Uniformed Health Services and Space Force to the term "Armed Forces" which allows them to be included in veterans benefits.

2. Ms. Henderson then went over potential panel topics and theme for this year's first in-person summit since COVID-19 pandemic began. Chair Breckenridge asserted Space should be included in a panel topic and Councilmember Eldon Regua advised members to reach out to incoming installation commanders to encourage their attendance in August. Chair Breckenridge also advised the members that they should talk to commanders about the Council and not assume that everyone knows it exists and why.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Final Comments**

1. Before closing the meeting, ED Siepmann spoke about the small budget from CMD that fuels the GMC and Allison's backfill while she is gone. Chair Breckenridge reminded the Council that they have an important mission and other Councilmembers responded with the value added by attending recent engagements at installations around the state.

2. Council legal representative, Charmaine Betty-Singleton also reminded the Council that not every meeting is open and that small team meetings are just conversations with local commanders, but that when the Council does have a have meeting, they are open to the public and public are invited to attend. She also reminded the Council to not discuss related issues outside of the meeting agenda amongst themselves as those are conversations reserved for when the public is able to participate.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10am.