



Q3 2022 Meeting Summary and Minutes Governor's Military Council

August 29, 2022

Embassy Suites

Sacramento, California 95814

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

- Chair of the Delegation, Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, United States Coast Guard (Retired)
- Ernest Echeveste, present for Chief Deputy Director Scott Morgan, representing the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Director Sam Assefa
- Colonel Deb Aspling, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hackleman, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Major General Eldon Regua, United States Army Reserves (Retired)
- Kaina Pereira, present for Director Dee Dee Myers, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- Major General Alice Astafan, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Major General Matthew Beevers, interim Adjutant General, California National Guard, California Military Department
- Rear Admiral Jim Johnson, United States Navy (Retired)
- Colonel Fred Meurer, United States Army (Retired)
- Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago, United States Army Reserves (Retired)
- Lieutenant Colonel Charmaine Betty-Singleton, California State Guard (Legal Counsel)

Member Guests:

- Brigadier General Mathew Higer, 412th Test Wing
- Kelli May Douglas, Defense State Liaison Office

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.

Chair Breckenridge then invited members of the public to address the Council, informing them that 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- agendaized item.

- Brigadier General Mathew Higer, 412th Test Wing:
 - The Commander at 412th Test Wing, Edwards Air Force Base, spoke to the group on the challenges of transferring family members to the installation, acknowledging that it was not unique to Edwards. He cited complications for trailing spouse and family members, stating that California is the only red/bad state in the Department of the Air Force grading for quality-of-life metrics. He requested the Council work on efforts to allow trailing spouses to continue their profession (licensure reciprocity).
 - Brig Gen Higer then stated that there was concern over the state's handling of military retirement and pensions and the resulting impact on the civilian workforce. He explained that maintenance professionals, not Colonels, Generals or Chiefs; but retiring senior Non-Commissioned Officers, would prefer to continue working for Edwards AFB. Instead, because the state fully takes a marginal tax rate on their pensions if they cannot afford to continue to work for Edwards AFB.
- Kelli May Douglas, Defense State Liaison Office:
 - Ms. Douglas encouraged the state to join a single professional licensing compact this year, noting that there are eight existing and five more forthcoming. She went on to state that California is currently one of only six states remaining in the nation that have not signed on to a single licensing compact. New this year, she explained, are a Teacher licensing compact and the Counseling board of California plans to introduce a counseling compact. She concluded by stating that as the top profession on military spouses, the Nursing compact is very important (teaching is second).
 - Ms. Douglas also spoke about the passage of AB 305, three years in the making, which leverages federal benefits dollars with benefits at the state level and requires state agencies to ask whether stakeholders have a service connection (veteran, etc.) to provide servicemembers access to these benefits.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Councilmember Major General Alice Astafan made a motion to approve the Q1 2022 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion with a unanimous vote in favor.

After the approval of the minutes, Councilmember agency members provided updates. Representing the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Ernie Echeveste, spoke on the 2021 and 2022 Military Economic Impact Study findings. He cited key findings in the study include number of jobs, tax revenue generation, stating that federal expenditures on defense in the state makeup 5% of CA's economic activity. He explained the 2022 study is not entirely complete as of the meeting date.

Mr. Echeveste then spoke to the Council about CaMEO CAMP, an interactive map that can be used by local governments and developers for opportunities to develop alternative energies that do not impact military readiness. He explained that this is the first time the state is providing access to this amount of data for all general plans and zoning information in military areas. The program, in beta version now, is available to Councilmembers who want to create an account and access it.

Next, Mr. Echeveste explained that his team is now halfway through an 18-month military installation review for military readiness and resilience capabilities at Sierra Army Depot (SIAD). The grant also explores economic opportunities and partnerships with issue areas developed because of this study. The anticipated deliverables at the study's end in June 2023 will provide a good case study for other installations who want to apply for these installation resilience study grants.

Next, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Senior Advisor Kaina Pereira, representing Director Dee Dee Myers, briefed members and guests on Cal Competes tax relief and grants programs. He remarked that the program continues to make investments into commercial space and defense industry and that the grant is funded for another \$120 million (30% for each of the awards) and \$200 million tax relief, with awards focused on semiconductor chips and wafers companies in the state.

Then, speaking on investment in space technologies in the state, Mr. Pereira explained that California has obtained 85% of venture capital funding over the last 11 years. Meaning, California companies have "gained" 45-50% of investments and funding in space technology and look to continue this trend into the future. One way Mr. Pereira stated they aim to achieve this goal is by working with the state's investment bank (iBank) to expand their iCERF

(community economic resilience fund) funding to focus on space-based resources in the state and their surrounding community's economic development quality of life initiatives.

Guest presenter, Khi Jackson, California Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), joined by Jesse Najera, Superintendent of the Silver Valley Unified School District (SVUSD), presented on compact and council and Purple Star Schools. They provided an example of high-performing student that may have missed their graduation without the efforts and intervening of the MIC3 on behalf of the military family.

Mr. Najera presented on his school district and the Purple Star Schools program in general. He explained that 75% of students in the district are military from Ft Irwin and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and that 40% of families could be new due to military turnover, Purple Star Schools are sensitive to those challenges and strives to help students excel despite them. Mr. Najera told the Council the group was able to bring Purple Star Schools to California with the help of the Military Council and that out of 36 schools that applied to the national program, 32 schools were named. A quarter of those are those named are in his district.

Finally, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Najera spoke on the "Heroes to Education" initiative, a component of which is the teacher credentialing compact, which is now out for public comment, then will go through a review process before going out again for final public comment. Mr. Jackson stated they are optimistic the compact will go through due to the cooperation with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Following their presentation, Councilmember Colonel (USA, Retired) Fred Meurer spoke about a small group meeting held at Lemoore Naval Aviation Station where the command teams raised issues around schools and housing for the workforce. One key issue he mentioned was that housing for military members is not maintained at an acceptable rate to meet turnover demands when families move on from the base. Further, the ability to build additional housing is challenged by local water board issues, but there are water issues at many of the bases and almost all of them are different. Finally, the base's employment is wholly dependent on civilian workforce availability, resulting in a brand new childcare facility that is at 30% capacity with a lengthy waitlist because of workforce shortages and hiring challenges. This led to a broader discussion of how the Council must rethink its efforts on housing, childcare and workforce as many bases are experiencing this same challenge in the post-COVID environment.

At the conclusion of Councilmember Meurer's brief, Chair Breckenridge asked Councilmembers to speak to commanders about blended retirement system impacts on retention decisions that could be brought to Association for Defense Communities and national policymakers.

Councilmember Major General (USAR, Retired) Eldon Regua spoke about visits to Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Camp Parks) and their issues both with affordable housing and affordable childcare, stating it was the case in a lot of Northern California bases. He explained how cost prohibitive it is to have children in Northern California and encouraged the Council to work on things the state can do to help mitigate these challenges, such as the reciprocity Camp Parks has with local cities to attempt to provide childcare for its reservists. Policy Director Allison Henderson mentioned that the Department of Defense is also working with states through its Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS (MCCYN-PLUS) initiative, which increased the number of childcare facilities in local communities available to receive DoD funding assistance without requiring national accreditation. Councilmember Regua concluded his remarks by commending the Defense Innovation Unit for their efforts in support of Ukraine.

Chair Breckenridge concluded this portion of the meeting by explaining to new Councilmembers the purpose and intent behind the annual summit, explaining that it is held at the end of the summer to capture new commanders and provides an opportunity for commanders to engage one another across the state and learn about common issues and goals. She then provided information to the group on upcoming engagement and event opportunities and the Council's Q4 2022 Business Meeting.

Next, Executive Director Jon Siepmann briefed the Council on the efforts that went into preparing the Summit for this year. He requested feedback from members that will inform planning for next year. He also informed the Council about upcoming announcements on space initiatives in the state and thanked Councilmember Lieutenant Colonel (USAF, Retired) Andrew Hackleman for his efforts in creating this opportunity.

Councilmember Kaina Pereira then provided a motion to adjourn the meeting, to which Councilmember Colonel (USAF, Retired) Deb Aspling seconded. Chair Breckenridge then adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.