



**Governor's Military Council
Q4 2022 Meeting Summary and Minutes**

November 17, 2022

Courtyard by Marriott San Diego Old Town
Santa Barbara Ballroom
2435 Jefferson Street, San Diego, CA 92110

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

- Chair of the Delegation, Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, United States Coast Guard (Retired)
- Major General Alice Astafan, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Major General Matthew Beevers, Acting Adjutant General, California National Guard, California Military Department
- Major General Craig Cooning, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Mr. Joe Czyzyk, Mercury Aviation
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hackleman, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Secretary Vito Imbasciani, M.D., California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET)
- Major General Tony Jackson, United States Marine Corps (Retired)
- Rear Admiral Jim Johnson, United States Navy (Retired)
- Mr. Jeff Klein, SES, United States Navy (Retired)
- Colonel Fred Meurer, United States Army (Retired)
- Chief Deputy Director Scott Morgan, representing the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Director Sam Assefa
- Kaina Pereira, present for Director Dee Dee Myers, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- Senator Richard Roth, District 31
- Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago, United States Army Reserves (Retired)
- Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Besmer, California National Guard (Legal Counsel)
- Lieutenant Colonel Charmaine Betty-Singleton, California State Guard (Legal Counsel)

Public Guests:

- Brigadier General Morris, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego
- Mark Balmert, Executive Director, San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC)
- Devin Lavelle, Assistant Director at California Research Bureau at the California State Library
- Wilfred Quintong, Director of Office of Military and Veterans Affairs for the County of San Diego
- Dr. Mark Merrifield, Director, Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

- Luc Lenain, Director, Air-Sea Interaction Laboratory, Marine Physical Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- David Boone, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Military Liaison – Consultant
- Chris Castillo, Director, Federal Government Relations, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Ian Clampett, Director, State and Local Government Relations, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Andrew Ferson, Federal Government Relations Analyst

After noting that a quorum was established, Council Chair Breckenridge asked Councilmember Astafan 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-agendized item.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Councilmember Hackleman made a motion to approve the Q3 2022 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember 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 OPR, Mr. Morgan informed the group about the creation of the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC), which manages the state's top public education and community outreach campaigns addressing California's most pressing issues in partnership with trusted community partners. He further explained that OCPSC manages the State's highest priority community engagement and public awareness efforts including COVID-19 vaccines and climate justice, water conservation and extreme heat. The Office works with the respective agencies and departments to help inform campaign efforts and supports greater coordination and collaboration within state government.

Mr. Morgan then informed the Council of a series of commissions created by the Governor through executive order that address youth, racial equity, and other key topics in the state. If anyone is interested in joining a commission, they can visit the appointments website to apply.

He then moved on to a brief overview of the status of the three main grants related to military at OPR: CASCADE, Military Installation Resilience at Sierra Army Depot, and the California Military Energy Opportunity Compatibility Assessment Mapping Project (CaMEO CAMP) mapping tool.

Councilmembers Jackson and Czyzyk requested from Council staff hard copies of information to bring to people with talking points that include an executive summary of the Council as well as copies of the economic impact study and county factsheets. Mr. Morgan stated OPR could consider printing out items for Councilmembers to have on hand for dissemination.

Councilmember Meurer mentioned that the City of Lompoc is also working on an Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Military Installation Resilience grant with Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). He posited that these grants are a great way to leverage federal money with state or local money, noting that a local match is only 10%, and encouraged members to bring this information to their stakeholder communities. Mr. Morgan added that the 10% match could be in-kind, not necessarily financial, adding that OPR is working on another at Naval Weapons Station China Lake around energy and water.

Mr. Morgan continued his update with the offshore wind development as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management moves forward with two lease areas on December 6 (Humboldt and Morro Bay), adding that the Navy was heavily involved with identifying these first few areas of potentially more for offshore wind in California. Related, Assembly Bill 525, signed into law September 23, 2021, requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish goals for offshore renewable energy as well as more seaspaces to support it. The two timeline goals: 5 GW by 2030 and 20 GW by 2045 require a lot of work identifying additional areas outside of those initial two. He explained there is an existing OLDCC grant to investigate needed onshore infrastructure for potential areas off Humboldt and Coos bay (in Southern Oregon).

In response to a question from Councilmember Czyzyk regarding the sense of urgency in OPR from the governor's order limiting sales of gas vehicles in the state after 2035, Mr. Morgan stated there is more involvement from the CA Air Resources Board and GO-Biz concerning infrastructure. He added that the CEC has several studies looking at large scale grid infrastructure challenges, reminding the Council there is an existing committee that meets just with the military through an MOU with the Secretary of the Navy and the CEC to work on these energy issues.

Next, Councilmember Imbasciani briefed the group on the drop in the State's veteran population to below \$1M by 2045 if there is no additional war with a near peer between now and then. He also lauded the agency's efforts, noting they received a couple of best-in-the-nation VA awards: the most recent one they take note of is the first in the nation state and federal veterans courts in 23 counties. CalVet funded five people to go into the prisons each week to meet with incarcerated veterans who would lose their benefits after 30 days of incarceration to reconnect them to the VA with whatever other benefits they earned and work with them to re-establish care upon their release.

He also informed the group that CalVet will open a brand new skilled nursing facility at Yountville soon and will close three legacy WWII facilities. He was also pleased to announce that cemetery and state veterans home construction fund was funded by the federal government and that Governor Newsom provided an additional \$50M to work on Veterans health initiative, \$40 granted out to local entities and nonprofit organizations who will focus on veterans mental health with an eye towards reducing veterans suicide, \$5M on outreach and \$5M for in depth research on suicide rates, their demographics and characteristics and last known contact with VA, etc. Keeping with the funding theme, he also informed the group that the sixth and last tranche of Prop 41 (Veterans Housing and Homeless Initiative), \$75M, is to be granted out this year and that \$20M will go to help construction in West LA, which was endorsed over to US Vets to remediate housing.

He concluded with sobering statistics that California is still at 11,200 homeless vets, that 26% of the nation's homeless veterans and 52% unsheltered veterans live in California.

Next, Mr. Kaina Pereira briefed on behalf of Councilmember Dee Dee Myers, GO-Biz Director that the state leads in private investment going to space companies but that it still pales in comparison to Chinese investments. GO-Biz recently provided a \$30 million tax credit to local rocket manufacturer, Relativity Space, and provided a \$25 million tax credit to Astra Space Operations for their \$100 million investment in upgrading their facilities in the state. GO-Biz will continue to fund the grant program through the federal CHIPS Act and seeks to support chip manufacturers, citing an ongoing roundtable with Cal State and community colleges regarding R&D efforts with that intent and Mr. Pereira stated they are working with the governor's office to move Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) programs from nebulous ideas to more strategic areas in which to apply for grant funding, citing a goal of at least 80% towards the transportation space.

Chair Breckenridge encouraged members to ask their local stakeholders about the shift in workforce skillsets because there are programs the state can provide to help especially as we look at new skills. She mentioned that the state has a precious rare metals mine, one of two in the nation, that was recently taken over by a US company and that one of the individuals involved in that project now works with GO-Biz so the Council has direct access to a very important component for our national security and we're very excited to have that in the state.

Councilmembers then provided updates on their small team visits from the previous day, starting with Councilmember Hackleman who spoke on the potential strategic basing decisions of the Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM), currently based at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado as well as on energy at VAFB, and challenges in California around housing and spousal employment at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) installation innovation forum earlier in the month. He shared with the attendees there what the state is doing to address those challenges, noting that even at Altus AFB in Oklahoma there are issues with housing. He also explained to the Council that during his panel on Space Force (SF) installations, he helped the people in attendance understand the rapid change in SF and the challenges that are present in the ability to "bed" these units down: housing, office space, etc. which ultimately results in a need to partner with communities for overflow space. He concluded with the assertion that military construction (MILCON) funding will be catching up with these needs over many years and does not address current demand.

Councilmember Santiago briefed the group on their small team visit to Colonel Tom Bedell of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and where they also met with the commander of Marine Corps Installations – West, Brigadier General Woodward. The group received a brief on the landmark energy, water and operations center (EWOC) on the base that converts landfill gas into installation resilience, powering not only the base but the surrounding community when needed. Their goal is to achieve 14 – 21 days of stand-alone power generation. The group also visited one of the best daycare centers Councilmember Santiago has ever seen, which once opened, will provide 300 more slots, including crucial infant rooms, but that does not address the egregious shortfall in care needs on base. She concluded by stating that she was struck by reality that even though this base is cutting edge in many areas, they still struggle with basic challenges such as runways and hangars due to the early arrival of the F-35. Other key issues the base brought up surrounded airspace management challenges over bombing ranges with the Bureau of Land Management; teacher licensing and challenges with employing nurses; and that on base barracks are less than ideal, some of them barely meeting the minimum standard. The group discussed that having only one California representative on the MILCON committee and only one representative from the San Diego region on the House Armed Services Committee means that there is no articulation of these dire needs at the federal level. There was a strong assertion that having representation on key committees will help solve a lot of this funding trouble.

Councilmember Johnson then provided a brief on his team's visit to Naval Base San Diego and the adjacent General Dynamics/NASSCO shipyards. His remarks echoed a lot from the Miramar visit concerning the base's relationships with the surrounding communities in the cities of San Diego and National City. He explained how the base is concerned with not just what occurs within its perimeter, but outside of it, citing the proliferation of trash from the Chollas Reservoir and landfill whenever there is a rainfall that winds up making its way down to NBSD where they stop if from entering the ocean. Housing, parking, transportation for base employees, and energy were also covered by the NBSD. Like Miramar, NBSD used naval ships to increase onshore energy during the state's last "brown out," which was equivalent to taking 20,000 homes off of the grid at a pivotal time in California energy

consumption. After speaking on the Richard Bonhomme fire, citing security concerns on different sides of the base, he concluded by stating the current biggest issue to the base is the pedestrian bridge currently underway with CALTRANS and its funding.

Councilmember Klein provided the final small team brief on his visit to NAVWAR where the team received an in-depth brief on the Old Town Center Revitalization project and toured the existing, antiquated facilities, which included a key integration facility where one of the primary missions is executed: providing IT capabilities to ships. When NAVWAR first started this mission, it took over 100 days to install different programs onto ships, but now this integration facilities has the ability pre-load equipment, install applications and significantly cut down on time. The group had an office call with NAVWAR commander RADM Doug Small and Executive Director John Pope, wherein they discussed workforce and talent. Despite being engaged with the state's CADENCE programs and the San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence, they are seeking other programs and opportunities to increase their reach to not only higher technical talent but lower trade level talent workforce prospects. Finally, Mr. Pope explained to the group that NAVWAR missed their small business goals and asked where the state could help in finding more small business talent the agency could tap into.

At the conclusion of the Councilmember briefs, the group heard from Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego (MCRD) Commander, USMC Brigadier General Jason Morris, who provided a background of his career and current role at MCRD. He provided an overview of the USMC recruiting framework, stating that they became the training ground for all recruits west of the Mississippi River as of 1923 when Treasure Island closed down. He provided a thorough history of recruiting efforts and demographics. Going into detail about the newest changes and challenges to recruiting, BGen Morris concluded his brief by detailing the detriment of current perceptions of a politicized military, reticence of allowing military in high schools, the impossible competition with civilian workforce markets for benefits and pay, and the public's conception of veterans as broken and homeless, with sexual assault and harassment the norm rather than the exception. These, coupled with the recent introduction of the Military Health Service's (MHS) "Genesis" health system has led to a significant reduction in recruit abilities, leading to an overall drop in goals to the lowest rate its ever been. He implored the Council to seek a halt to the MHS Genesis roll-out and to reinforce, at every opportunity, the importance to serve one's country in any capacity.

Next the Council heard from the Director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs for the County of San Diego, Wilfred Quintong, about the incredible success the office has had in serving veterans in the region. His small team hands the enter county with a budget of only \$4.1 million that covers salaries and benefits but is almost net cost to the County because of their federal funding. He stated approximately 30% of the county population is associated with military and veterans, which is spread all the way into Mexico, via their satellite office in Tijuana. During COVID, he explained, the agency learned what they could do remotely (such as counseling services) and became more efficient and effective, citing the over 8,000 college fee waivers the office submits through CALVET each year. He concluded his brief by explaining that the Mayor's new taskforce was designed to hear issues firsthand that may influence city policy concerning veterans, but does not take the place of this existing organization. He lauded the Veterans Administration, but stated that getting veterans through the front door of the VA is the hardest part and his county program is a model in the state as they help 20,000 veterans a year sign up with the VA.

The next two briefers, Mark Balmert, CEO of San Diego Military Advisory Council, and Devin Lavelle, Assistant Director for the California State Libraries, presented on their respective Military Economic Impact Studies. Mr. Balmert started by stating that a quarter of the local economy in San Diego comes from defense spending, which softens the impact of national economic fluctuation. This report marks the 15th year of SDMAC conducting studies such as this and other specialized reports like the one on NAVWAR, which demonstrated that if San

Diego were a state, it would rank #4 in NAVWAR contracts. Next year, he concluded, SDMAC will emphasize partnering defense with community innovation as that is one area where they are not quite as well-versed. The group then discussed the lack of engagement on the part of groups with the state's congressional delegation to stave off another base realignment and closure round and grow the national security mission in the state. Mr. Balmert agreed, stating that before the COVID pandemic, his organization would travel to D.C. twice a year but that had slowed since then and is only now starting to re-vamp to focus on the five local representatives out of a total 52 possible in the state. Mr. Lavelle began the review of his study, the fifth version of this report, by stating that staying flat in spending is notable for California while spending from all three agencies (the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Department of Energy) dropped by 7.1% overall. He noted some limitations such as Mackesson Pharmaceuticals moving out of state to Texas but that they don't have the ability to parse out the data to whether HQ dollars are going from CA to TX as a result. Chair Breckenridge contributed to the conversation by stating that the GMC has been tracking the "stealth BRAC" where companies and people and mission were moving out of state, which is a key reason the Council visits communities and installations, in order to monitor these potential losses. Mr. Lavelle added that companies are usually private about where they spend their money so it can be tough to track with high fidelity, but the Council is always willing to step in where it can. He concluded his presentation by stating that defining technology is difficult, but that during the heart of the recession, employment and spending in defense stayed relatively flat but did decline somewhat in induced and indirect impacts, though mostly due to modeling.

The final brief of the meeting came from the researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California San Diego. David Boone, the military advisor to the group, explained to the group the concept and application of the DoD Climate Assessment Tool, which sees the world as a global tool (such as sea rise like a bathtub), which is not the reality). Instead, he asserted, decision makers need a localized assessment for bases on impacts from climate change and the research from UCSD Scripps provides that to better inform base leadership on predictability of the threats and potential recourse to help determine prioritized investments to mitigate those effects. Dr. Mark Merrifield, director of this research stated that the first projects are centered around early warning systems such as a wave buoy project that provides wave data and can start to put together flood forecasts, which were put into action at Imperial Beach. They are now working with CA State Parks and the Army Corps of Engineers for how to expand these successful programs to ensure that every base along the shoreline has the best tools to address these risks. He stated that the research begins at bases, which are viewed as laboratories for adaptation work because anywhere else in the state requires extensive, costly and timely permitting. Researcher Luc Leverain added that the research requires observation to develop an as-yet elusive baseline for all the state's coastline. While California is leading the charge in climate change and while there is agreement there is a problem, there are no agreements on solutions. A proven business case is necessary to get people on to solution sets and military bases have the most unimproved property, which allow for tests to be conducted without impacting a lot of people or infrastructure, contributing to these necessary solution applications. Mr. Boone went on to state that there is a disconnect between current environmental and climate realities and the military budgeting process which behaves as if the threat is far out while the impacts are already taking place at military installations. This results in language about resiliency in the National Defense Authorization Act, but no appropriations to support it, thus installations are taking measures into their own hands and funding studies and efforts out of their own existing budgets. He asserts there needs to be much more done in baselining installations before an event happens, so we know where we're going, lamenting that there is still no overarching strategy at the Pentagon level. The group concluded their presentation by stating that increasing understanding of coastal hazards and prediction attempts requires more mapping, which is currently only every five years. Observation is needed before, during and after a storm event, for which the group

has the technology, but none of the necessary funding. They are working with Navy Facilities and Navy Region Southwest to collate data, science and engineering to create a whole picture, but lack a connection with the Army Corps of Engineers.

After presentations concluded, the group heard from Executive Director Siepmann on the potential for an ad hoc space sub-committee of the Council to address the issue area and a call for after action review comments for the 2023 All California Defense Leadership Summit, stating the staff is already in the planning phase and working with elected members to determine better timing.

The Council meeting ended at 12:30pm with a movement to adjourn from Councilmember Astafan and a second from Councilmember Czyzyk. The Council will reconvene in person in Q1 2023.