



**Governor's Military Council  
Q2 2023 Business Meeting Summary**

May 24, 2023

California Environmental Protection Agency  
Sierra Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1001 I Street, Sacramento CA, 95814

Chair of the Governor's Military Council, Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge, commenced the meeting at 9:38am, welcoming everyone to the second meeting of 2023 for the Governor's Military Council.

Roll Call

**Members Present:**

- Chair of the Delegation, Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, United States Coast Guard (Retired)
- Vice Chair of the Delegation, Lieutenant General Edward Hanlon, Jr., United States Marine Corps (Retired)
- Director Samuel Assefa, California Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
- Undersecretary Russell Atterberry, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET)
- Ms. Taylor Bartucca, representing Senator Shannon Grove
- Major General Matthew Beevers, The Adjutant General, California Military Department (CMD)
- Mr. Tom Berard, SES, United States Air Force (Retired)
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hackleman, United States Air Force (Retired)
- 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)
- Director Dee Dee Myers, California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- Major General Eldon Regua, United States Army Reserve (Retired)
- Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago, United States Army Reserve (Retired)
- Mr. Rhys Williams, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

**Public Guest Speakers:**

- Mr. Dustin DeBrum, Digital Transformation Hub (DxHub), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

- Dr. Elise St. John, Digital Transformation Hub (DxHub), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Ms. Lisa Silverman, Executive Officer, California Department of General Services - Office of Public School Construction
- Michael Watanabe, Chief, Fiscal Services & Chief, Administrative Services California Department of General Services - Office of Public School Construction
- Ms. Katie Chaires, San Diego Regional Economic Development

After calling the meeting to order, Council Chair Breckenridge established that a quorum was present and asked Councilmember Rear Admiral James Johnson to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, she thanked the Natural Resources Agency for their hospitality in allowing the use of the Coastal Hearing Room for this meeting.

Chair Breckenridge then requested any comments from Councilmembers before proceeding with the meeting and welcoming members of the public who may wish to make a comment in the next meeting segment. Noting no significant comments from the Council, 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.

**Public Members Present:**

- Ms. Soo Lee Davis, currently awaiting appointment to the Council
- Ms. Susan Salley Veazey, Project Manager, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)
- Mr. David Janiec, Chair, China Lake Alliance and Co-Chair, California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA)
- Captain Chris Ponce, Aide de Camp, California Military Department
- Mr. Glen Lewis, Senior Program Manager, Industry & Supply Chain Management, KAI Partners
- Mr. Tom Lasser, South Bay Aerospace Alliance

Mr. David Janiec commented to the Council that the Vandenberg's Space Force Base's Military Impact Study from OLDCC added housing as a consideration, noting that Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake had already completed their study without housing. He expressed a desire to conduct a revised study with housing and healthcare pressures into future studies.

There was no further public comment.

The Council then heard a presentation from Katie Chaires from San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation on their Shipbuilding Regional Industrialization Pilot (SHIP) program Regional Visioning Workshop and Talent Flow Analysis. SHIP, funded under the Department of Defense (DOD)'s Office of

Innovation Capability and Modernization (ICAM)'s Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) program combines data-driven analysis with relationship-based community mobilization to reduce the industry's workforce gaps and enable productivity gains to build the naval fleet of the future. Leveraging a proven community-building approach, the SAI and IBAS teams will implement plans in key strategic regions in San Diego, Connecticut and Detroit. SDREDC contracted Deloitte to develop some solutions, which they are also working on in parallel at the EDC with cooperation from General Dynamics NASSCO. There were additional slides presented on the details of the current findings and potential further studies.

At the conclusion of Ms. Chaires' presentation, Chair Breckenridge reminded the group that because the presentation was not an agenda item, discussion and questions were not permitted.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Councilmember Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago made a motion to approve the Q1 2023 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember and Vice Chair Lieutenant General Ed Hanlon seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion with a unanimous vote in favor.

With no further action items to discuss, the group heard from representatives of the Digital Transportation Hub (DxHub) at the California Polytechnic Institute at San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) on workforce and innovation support for the central coast spaceports.

Dustin DeBrum, operations director for Cal ...

Elise St John introduced themselves, explaining that the originally scheduled speaker, Paul Jurasin, is instead spearheading their 5G innovation lab ribbon cutting. They continued by thanking the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for support with their CADENCE grant, which has been instrumental in supporting the programs they're presenting on at this meeting.

Among the various topics they presented, Mr. DeBrum and Dr. St. John presented on a proposed new spaceport on the Central Coast at which Cal Poly, along with City of Paso Robles, have proposed to develop a horizontal launch spaceport to provide a comprehensive service offering to support education and research payload delivery to low earth orbit. Named "Educational Access to Space," this capability will enhance and inspire the future space workforce as they observe their educational projects for climate change research, space weather analysis, and others reach orbit without the multi-year wait that currently exists. The spaceport will provide a national capability to integrate educational institution-developed, CubeSat based sensors with launch vehicles while providing cloud-based command and control and data transmission capabilities. The spaceport will also provide policy oversight regarding de-orbit planning and adherence to regulatory requirements.

They went on describe Cal Poly's continued support for establishing the Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) Transformation Office, a digital transformation office that will support the development of innovative solutions to challenges across the Base. Leveraging Cal Poly's DxHub innovation challenge process, Cal Poly and VSFB have completed planning workshops and team training with the digital transformation office leadership to define and prepare for digital transformation activities on base. This has resulted in the posting of a Chief Data Officer position that will further lead efforts in the digital transformation area.

Finally, the pair presented on the "Cleared for Success Program" (CFS) launched from Congressman Salud Carbajal's 2019 NDAA Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) pilot program appropriation. Cal Poly is creating this CFS program to support public service for national security by fostering innovation in applied/classified research, contracts, and grants to create professional education, training, certification, and workforce opportunities within the classified realm. Initial investment includes the deployment of a secure facility to support secure activities, training, and research. The CFS program will develop in three phases, beginning in the space arena, and looking toward future expansion into other classified opportunities across subject matter areas. The CFS program will leverage the strengths and assets of Cal Poly to prepare students for the responsibilities of working in a secure/classified program and develop a conduit for professional, secure training opportunities.

At the conclusion of their brief, Councilmembers and Directors Dee Dee Myers and Sam Assefa thanked Cal Poly for their presentation and work on security clearances, cybersecurity efforts and partnership with VSFB.

There was a discussion on launch predictability and how the Cal Poly efforts may facilitate that at VSFB, to which Mr. DeBrum responded that his team's job is to address efficient and effective model of gathering information and leveraging known information that VSFB and other customers may use as open source to solve myriad problems, including time to launch.

In response to Vice Chair Hanlon's question about viability of horizontal space launch facilities in Paso Robles vice numerous options already in existence in other states, Dr. St. John stated DxHub is doing something different and intentional compared to other spaceports. Rather than building in the middle of nowhere, the group is being very intentional in developing workforce and talent pipeline around a spaceport and alternative pathways outside CalPoly for workforce and internships. This includes real-time student engagement working with her team while they are pursuing their degrees.

In response to Councilmember Fred Meurer's question about the DxHub's relationship with Amazon Web Services (AWS), VSFB and sharing information with required clearances, Dr. St. John explained that the partnership started from a need by the university IT for an upgrade and web services. She explained that while not many universities were comfortable upgrading to the cloud yet, CalPoly had a lot of conversations with AWS around partnering through workforce development so all students she hires are paid for by AWS (approximately 20 students a quarter to work on various challenges) and in exchange AWS learns about problems public sector organizations face and works very closely and directly with students. AWS in return provides free AWS credits and resources, applications, etc. for students to use. This partnership, which has already been renewed means CalPoly was the very first cloud innovation center with them in the world and its success has led to 15 now around the world.

Ms. Eileen Sanchez contributed that before the CASCADE grant, there was an OLDCC grant that was designed to create partnerships with VSFB. Once that one agreement went it, it just spread so VSFB and CalPoly were able to partner on the AWS efforts. Mr. DeBrum continued that the CFS program stems from the idea that it takes a significant amount of time for people to receive security clearances, something they heard repeatedly from aerospace companies looking to hire new talent. He claimed that CalPoly is not obtaining the clearances themselves but has developed training for the students to learn the clearance approval process and then work with the Space Force on the base for the actual clearances. Once the fundamentals and structure are established in the process, they want to increase their partnership to other organizations.

There was a subsequent discussion on workforce and partnerships with the Space Systems Command needs to which Mr. DeBrum responded they are in partnership as well. Dr. St. John added that DxHub is working on a study as to what types of industry that would be drawn to the Paso Robles space port, but that there is yet not much data, but they expect to have results by the end of the year.

Following the Cal Poly presentation, Councilmember and California National Guard Adjutant General Major General Matthew Beevers provided an update on California Military Department's latest efforts, which include approximately 1,529 soldiers and airman deployed around the world as of May 2023 and that in July another 500-600 Soldiers from the 40<sup>th</sup> ID will deploy to take command and control of Operation Spartan Shield. Another 70 troops will head into Baghdad for Operation Inherent Resolve. Within the state, there are 1,000 troops deployed conducting efforts such as advanced planning at the California Office of Emergency Services, 16 Soldiers at 3 points of entry for Customs and Border Protection, and 600 around high-intensity drug trafficking areas. Further, there are

troops supporting the California Cyber Information Center with 40 people across the state.

In support of federal government, several of behavioral health officers just returned from Poland where they were training Ukrainian behavioral health teams who are treating those who come off the line from their conflict with Russia and the Cyber protection team (Team 171) is deployed forward in support of US Cybercommand.

He continued that the 144 Fighter Wing provides manning for airspace control mission for southwest United States, noting that the Air Force just announced that the 144<sup>th</sup> will be recapitalized with F15EX which will make the wing more lethal. The helicopter squadron at Moffett will also be recapitalized, he added, modernizing their equipment.

MG Beevers than presented on recruiting efforts, stating that they have seen the "bottom," and expected to see a trend back upwards. He noted that every service and every component is experiencing a lack of recruitment, but that this past year, the trend went flat and did not go down. Retention, however, has seen drastic improvement, which he feels has to do with the department's "People First" strategy, which aims to make Guard service more predictable as a second part time job, behind many troops' family and other full time career. He posited that if the Guard is more predictable than a Servicemember's family life and civilian career, they will keep coming back to serve - this is in the face of an extraordinarily high op tempo; the California Guard is at 16% excess deployments for a force of just shy of 19,000. He explained that for recruiting and retention efforts, the goal is to exam demographics and outyears to develop plans on where the organization needs to move to from an infrastructure standpoint to entice new recruits. As a result, the Guard is trying to build out some infrastructure that will enable it to grow the organization to where it can recruit: LA Basin and San Diego, with San Diego primarily as well as along the I-5 and I-99 corridor up to Sacramento and not much further.

In July the Military Department moves into their new headquarters, to which MG Beevers noted there are some issues, but it's coming together. While they have brand new headquarters right here in Sacramento, there are another 70-80 facilities throughout the state where Soldiers and Airmen are working that have lived well past their lifespan, so the department has shifted their focus to addressing that now.

Finally, he stated that in keeping with competition for talent, every Servicemember in Stockton and the Sacramento area received a 25% pay raise for pilots and maintainers to stay in their positions so they don't run off and join the private sector. He concluded his brief stating that the department is busy every day, overseas and at home.

There was a discussion about the recent concerns in cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the Air National Guard to which MG Beevers responded that his team reflected on whether those same vulnerabilities existed within the California National Guard and whether the same leaks could occur within our organization. He affirmed that the state's Site Security Officers are extraordinarily competent and took a step back and examined if it were possible and the answer was "no." Individuals are not allowed to leave a sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF) here with documents without a classified document handler certification.

The group concluded the discussion with the topic of energy resilience in National Guard and Councilmember Rhys Williams contributed that the state does conduct "Black Skies" tabletop exercises with which the Military Department and utility companies such as Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) participate to explore potential threats and vulnerabilities. Councilmember Williams continued that PG&E, for better or worse, has built an incredible network of resilience and identification of critical infrastructure with islanding switches.

Next the Council heard from representatives at the California Department of General Services – Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) on the latest efforts to renovate and remediate military-affiliated schools throughout the state.

Executive Officer Lisa Silverman provided an overview on the goals and process of the agency, stating that they process state grants for the construction of these schools with the latest being a \$42 billion voter-approved bond last passed in November 2016. She explained that this year, the agency introduced into its portfolio a state traditional and pre-kindergarten program, which is fortunate because it allows them to keep going despite being out of funding for the last two years.

Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Michael Watanabe went into details, explaining how there are a lot of schools on military bases that fall under the jurisdiction of the local community school district and the program exists to provide matching funds for the 80% funding for OLDCC grants to modernize and rebuild each of them. This program, the Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI), focuses on finding matching state funds to provide local districts to take advantage of OLDCC grants to modernize or build schools on military installations.

Specifically, he stated, this state program has provided over \$75 million to support local districts in meeting a 20% funding match requirement that contributed to the complete rebuild or modernization of 25 schools across 8 campuses. He stated that to date this has allowed for the state to receive over \$550 million in federal funding, which covers only half the schools on their list. As an example, Edwards Air Force Base just finished their fourth school and their master plan campus that OPSC has been working with the base to complete for the past 11 years. It is the longest project they've ever worked on and required seven different funding sources to create the matching funds but is now a standard for the nation that Patrick O'Brien (OLDCC Director) wants the nation to follow when considering future projects and planning.

Looking forward, Mr. Watanabe stated, OPSC is working on eight projects now throughout the state. One project at VSFB is close, they are working on their final plan approvals and expect to start construction next year, but another project with a private charter school, has presented some challenges with capacity. OPSC has encouraged the school district to work with larger architecture firms in the future as this one stalled from using a smaller architecture firm in the beginning. Another project he mentioned is located at Camp Pendleton where the local district has matched funding, but OPSC is working to replace with their state funding so the district can use their local funds on other projects instead. Another three or four are coming up in the next year, including one at Beale Air Force Base that will hopefully be included in the next round of federal funding.

Councilmembers were ecstatic and laudatory of OPSC's efforts. Councilmember Hanlon relayed how impressed he was at the transformation at Mary Kay Pendleton, what now looked like a community college, and how much it improved the combat readiness of families on the Marine Corps Base. Councilmember Tom Berard echoed those sentiments, stating that pilots used to retire before coming to Edwards AFB because the schools were in such bad shape but that the recent ribbon cutting at Desert Junior Senior High School was beautiful.

Mr. Watanabe concurred that OPSC has been so successful that OLDCC has pre-funded construction on new projects due to the high level of confidence in their execution. Ms. Silverman attributed this success to early planning engagement with the schools and OLDCC. OPSC has a regular cadence with the districts that prevents key things from being dropped. She added that influence also helps that the GMC's influence help move projects along. Funding, however, is always a concern and Ms. Silverman explained how Proposition 13, which did not pass a few years ago, had language focused on the PSMI grant to improve the modernization requirements and reduce the age from 25 years to 10 years for military schools. There is a bond bill now that has the same language again which



will provide another opportunity for base schools to modernize ahead of their civilian counterpart schools.

At the conclusion of the OPSC brief, the Council then turned to member agency updates, leading with the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Sam Assefa. Mr. Assefa briefed the group that he would be leading an effort to create more energy resilience partnerships with VSFb because of the meeting the Council held there in Q1 2023.

He also explained that encroachment is top of mind, especially surrounding Travis AFB. OPR is mandated for coordinating and facilitating coordination for development near military bases and activities. Senate Bill 242 (Roth, 2019) directs OPR to serve as the repository for DoD points of contact for notification of any development projects within 1,000 feet of a military installation. To comply, OPR started working on an initiative to update an existing database and application, CMLUCA with CaMEO Camp. The database notifies developers of any project that is within 1,000 feet of any military activity or air space and provides notification of the appropriate military contact to notify of intent to develop. Right now, the program is on pause as it goes through a review process and funding consideration.

Ms. Sanchez continued the brief for OPR by explaining how her team at OPR continues to work with OLDCC to modernize the state's workforce for the Defense Industrial Base like the project presented by CalPoly. San Diego just presented the first ever Cyberlab with the intent to build these pipelines with over 150 community colleges to "upskill" the workforce throughout the state to adapt to the needs of our military communities and defense industry base needs. She continued that there is a real threat of any gaps in workforce needs between jobs, as that means the workforce will go somewhere else. Her team has also been discussing that there has been potentially too much encouragement for students to attend college and university and not enough on trade schools that are now in critical demand.

The Under Secretary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET), Russell Atterberry, then addressed the group stating that the upcoming Memorial Day weekend would mean a lot of activity for CALVET throughout the state. He added that as a result of meeting OLDCC at the GMC meeting, he would be meeting with their leadership later to discuss how to engage Veterans in more programs. He also spoke with Under Secretary of the Army, Mario Diaz, and told him they need to increase the footprint in California for Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence and added that there should be some discussion about extending security clearances beyond two years after Veterans separate from services if they are involved in a program or employment that requires it.

He posited that roughly 20-25,000 members separate from service in California every year and its unclear on whether there is any data to show if those separating

servicemembers go on to further employment in the state – proposing that there is a way to examine community college admissions to determine the number of vets that come through programs.

Under Secretary Atterberry then moved on to discuss Mental Healthcare Month and all the latest efforts CALVET has done in this arena, to include modernization of Prop 63, the Mental Health Services Act. In response to a question from Chair Breckenridge about one of his agency's biggest challenges, he stated that labor vacancies in mental health workforce stymy efforts, despite the recent funding in the last budget to help increase access to mental health services through the Veterans Support for Self-Reliance and Veterans Health Initiatives.

He concluded his brief with a housing update, informing the group of the latest groundbreaking in North Hollywood, an event in San Francisco, and where in West LA CALVET just did another event where they had another two hundred housing units for veterans. He stated that in Palmdale, they also had over 200 hundred volunteers from defense agencies to help open several houses, provide keys and then start building the next round of houses.

MG Beevers applauded CALVET's efforts stating they have the largest veteran population in the country with an oppressive geography to content with and phenomenal success in meeting the needs of veterans despite these challenges.

Councilmember Andrew Hackleman provided the final agency partner brief on behalf of GO-Biz Director Dee Dee Myers, who had to depart the meeting early. He spoke on the latest Space Industry Taskforce (SITF) efforts, which is pointed at maintaining and increasing the footprint of the space industry in the state, stating the group has been focusing a lot on engagement and thinking about where the state needs to connect with different partners both here and nationally as well as internationally. He stated that he and two members of GO-Biz, Kaina Pereira and Michael Karavolias attended the National Space Symposium, which is the place to be in the world for space (42 nations represented). It was a well-attended symposium with about 16,000 attendees in Colorado hosted at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, where a lot of benefit comes in engaging with other states, industry and other nations with what is currently going on in the space industry. The group worked with the Space Foundation (who puts on the event) to determine where and how we can engage better in the future to have a presence next year. Recommendations included having a meeting space and establishing meetings well in advance with key partners to build relationships and increase competitiveness.

Councilmember Hackleman went on to inform the group on how the memorandum of understanding at VSBF expanded to include the cities of Lompoc and Santa Marias as well as UCSB and Hancock and Cuesta community colleges to focus on many of the challenges discussed during this meeting that take place

on any of the installations, noting that partnerships like this are critical to maintaining competitiveness for space launch capabilities in the state.

In response to a question from Councilmember Meurer on creating an ombudsman role to help cut through bureaucratic red tape much like the lobbying firms hired by the film and wine industry in the state, Chair Breckenridge answered that the SITF is looking into this very question through the caucus in D.C. and examining legislative, public sector, and existing DoD frameworks for how to view issues in Space.

Upon conclusion of the final agency brief, Councilmember Johnson provided the group with an update on the Council's Healthcare Subcommittee formulation. He began with a history on the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and its challenges transitioning to the DHA from the services. Then he went on to describe the subcommittee's composition and membership, which includes representatives from the Coast Guard, 29Palms, China Lake, SDMAC and GMC. He concluded by stating that there are increasing concerns with the rural closing of hospitals, stating that from a policy perspective, there should be some integration between communities and installations and the subcommittee plans to work with China Lake regional hospital for more information.

Before concluding the meeting, Councilmember Rhys Williams provided the group an update on big advancements from the Governor's Office on infrastructure in the state. Just last week, the Governor announced the state's most ambitious plan which includes 11 bills and one executive order that could cut up to three years from project timelines paperwork to get CEQA challenges and reviews through, looking at water, transit, solar, wind and battery storage, but also including Semiconductor fabrication plants. He acknowledged that housing is still sitting out there as a major concern in the state, but reminded the group that the state has executed 20 CEQA reform bills around housing that have already been signed – progress in another forum.

Councilmember Williams went on to tell the group that the Governor will be launching the next iteration of the state's roadmap on energy infrastructure transition from heavily polluting greenhouse gas-producing sources to long term energy sources, noting that last summer's 10 day heat dome combined with the highest in the state's demand on the grid (52 Megawatts) highlighted that even though the state somehow managed to keep the lights on and not shed any load but the Governor has put together a dedicated team to examine these new needs. Finally, Councilmember Williams stated, the California Energy Commission and the California Independent System Operator will provide a brief to the press on energy reliability projections for this summer.

At the conclusion of the brief, Chair Breckenridge asked for a motion to adjourn, to which Councilmember Hackleman posed the motion with Councilmember Meurer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.