



**Governor's Military Council
Q2 2024 Business Meeting Summary**

May 15, 2024

California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Chair of the Governor's Military Council, Vice Admiral Breckenridge, called the meeting to order at 0810, welcoming everyone to the Council's public Q2 2024 meeting, the group was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vice Admiral Breckenridge conducted roll call, for which a quorum was established.

Roll Call

Members Present:

- Vice Admiral (Ret.) Jody Breckenridge, Chair Governor's Military Council
- COL Jon Siepmann, Executive Director, Governor's Military Council
- Lieutenant General (Ret.) Edward Hanlon, Vice Chair, Governor's Military Council
- Major General (Ret.) Craig Cooning, Member, Governor's Military Council
- Mr. Jeffery A. Klein, Senior Executive Service (Ret.), Member, Governor's Military Council
- Mr. Rhys Williams. Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
- Mr. Fred Meurer, Member, Governor's Military Council
- Ms. Dee Dee Myers, Director of GO Biz
- Mr. Ethan Nash, Economic Research Analyst, GO-Biz
- Mr. Samuel Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Ms. Saharnaz Mirzazad, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Mr. Roberto C. Herrera, Deputy Secretary, CalVet
- Ms. Le-Quyen Nguyen, Deputy Undersecretary for Energy, California Natural Resources Agency
- Major General Matthew Beevers, The Adjutant General, California Military Department

- Senator Bob Archuleta, California State Senate
- Ms. Melinda Grant, Undersecretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Representing California's 11th Assembly District, Member Governor's Military Council
- Senator Richard Roth, Representing California's 31st Senate District, Member, Governor's Military Council

The Council's first order of business was to swear in new members ASM Lori Wilson and Colonel (Ret.) Soo Lee Davis.

Chair Breckenridge identified that the minutes for Q1 2024 Meeting at Barstow needed to be voted on for approval. Motion was made to approve the minutes, and, with no opposition, the motion was approved by all hands raised by the Council members.

Public Comments

At 0815 the Council's meeting was opened to public comments:

-No public comments were made.

Chair Breckenridge offered the new Council Members ASM Lori Wilson and Colonel (Ret.) Soo Lee Davis the opportunity to make any introductory remarks to the Council. They each remarked on their pleasure at serving on the Council.

A discussion among the members ensued on the upcoming Q4 meeting in San Francisco. Executive Director Siepmann explained the goal of hosting the meeting in conjunction with the city's Fleet Week events was to provide as much engagement with the services as possible during Council meetings. To that extent, he continued, the plan is for Q1 2025 to occur during WEST in San Diego, a tech-oriented symposium with senior leader events centered around on West Coast. There will be an opportunity for the council to visit bases in the San Diego area and break up into small teams and visit the various installations. For 2025 Q2, the intent is to visit installations in Los Angeles/Orange County such as the Los Angeles Space Force Base during the Los Angeles Fleet Week (May 2025), same concept as SF Fleet week. Next year there will be a Q3 meeting in conjunction with the

Council's Annual Defense Summit and the 2025 ADC Installation Innovation Summit in Monterey (26-29 October 2025). This is as far as realistic to plan.

Vice Admiral Breckenridge opened the floor for comments from the council. Councilmember Fred Meurer and Vice Chair Ed Hanlon both discussed the upcoming Q3 meeting in Monterey and the value of hosting meetings in a hub-and-spoke manner such as during Q1.

Chair Breckenridge then request a motion to vote on 2024 Q3: Bay Area, SF Fleet Week (approximately 6-7 October 2024). She asked for a motion - she received a first motion. She asked for a second motion – she received a second motion. She asked if there was any discussion. No discussion. She asked all in favor – she received all verbal ayes. She asked if there were any oppose. No oppose. Chair Breckenridge stated she was the one abstention.

Chair Breckenridge asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Q1-Q3 visits listed on the board. She received a motion; she received a second. There was no discussion, so she asked for a vote to approve the 2025 as listed. All in favor. The motion carried.

Update on Future Bylaws Changes and Process

Chair Breckenridge thanked everyone for their votes and turned it back over to Executive Director Siepmann to discuss the by-laws and the GMC legislation timeline. The GMC is active under legislation until January 1, 2026, when it will then need to be extended through legislation. One of the issues that is currently being worked through the Governor's office is whether changes can be made to Bagley Keene and the bylaws need further clarification. He motioned to the legislators on the council and stated that with the GMC sunseting in 2026 they would need some assistance with legislation.

Chair Breckenridge noted that when the GMC legislation was created there was a desire for transparency that had not factored in visits to national security facilities. There may be a way forward to remedy this challenge. ASM Lori Wilson asserted that she would work with her colleagues on the GMC legislation. Sen Roth advised separating the extension legislation from the discussion on public involvement at military installations.

California Defense Leadership Summit Overview

Executive Director Siepmann thanked the Office of Planning and Research, specifically Eileen Sanchez for helping make the GMC Q2 Meeting and Defense Summit happen. Thanked the California Military Department and servicemembers in uniform for their hard work and support. Also thanked Scott Lichtig, CalEPA, for providing the conference room for the Q2 meeting and overall support. He then covered the overall intent and agenda for the All California Defense Conference noting speakers for each panel.

Member Agency Updates and Council Discussion Items

Office of Planning and Research

Samuel Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research informed the group that OPR will launch the California Military Energy Opportunity Compatibility Assessment Mapping Project (CAmeoCamp) this fall. A geo-spatial and geographic web mapping tool, when launched CAmeoCamp has a platform that would give access to any proposed developments throughout the state or any changes by local jurisdiction on their general planned policies that could have direct impacts on military installations and their readiness.

He went on to state that CASCADE / CADENCE is in the final stages to wrap up those programs in the fall due to a lack of continued funding, however, OPR will look for future opportunities to fund these programs.

Natural Resources Agency

Ms. Le-Quyen Nguyen, Deputy Undersecretary for Energy, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), provided updates on offshore wind energy. In California, Offshore wind have planned 2-5 gigawatts by 2030 and 25 gigawatts by 2045. Currently, have 5 projects that are in the early stages working through site construction plans, environmental impact documents, and on the state side by working on strategic plan to determine how to achieve 2030 and 2045 goals. Projecting to have final plan completed by Summer 2024. Current leases will help them achieve 2030 goal but will need more to reach 2045 goal. In 2025/2026, Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM), will work with California to identify additional call areas off the coast, specifically on the North, Central Coast, and in previous conversations with the military there was push back in the south, specifically areas in Morro Bay.

In response to a question from Chair Breckenridge on whether the plan to run a pilot project on state lands in the Central Coast persists, Ms. Le-Quyen Nguyen remarked yes, and referenced the CADEMO project that is a smaller pilot project where those turbines are closer to shore whereas the other projects are about 20 miles offshore, the CADEMO project is 3-6 miles offshore and currently State Lands Commission are working on their environmental documents for that project.

She went on to explain how she is aware of issues in the past with the supply chain and planning for strategic reserves for transformers, however, most of the time these projects are developed by utilities or other private developers, and they are not thinking through ensuring potential national security assets at the end of the lines.

In response to a question from Q1 concerning the state's water strategy at bases, Ms. Le-Quyen Nguyen then answered that the agency is building off 2020's water resilience portfolio work that was based on military and water districts engagements. They discovered a lot of the issues for bases are also throughout California and include problems such as overdraft, not enough water support, high demand, water pollution, and ensuring lower costs. Chair Breckenridge stated it could be valuable for the GMC to share with water districts the national significance of the bases they support. A member of the public commented that the Western Regional Partnership is also engaged in strategic water supplies and water scarcity and could be a great entity to engage in top-down policy issues across the six partner states.

Ms. Le-Quyen Nguyen concluded her comments with an update to the Council that the Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape received its federal designation this year in May. The partnership includes five military installations: the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, National Training Center Fort Irwin, Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. It encompasses multi-mission public lands and over 40 protected species, including the Mojave Desert tortoise and western Joshua tree. This had been a years-long process finally coming to fruition and a huge success for the state.

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

Deputy Secretary Roberto C. Herrera, CalVet, provided an update on the developments for the California Transition Assistance Program, a supplemental

program offered on all the military installations across the state of California to provide enhanced transitional services to Servicemembers (SM). Working with Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and Veterans Affairs, CalVet will begin receiving more advance notice for servicemembers who are getting out of the service and have a home of record in California. The new development provides the opportunity to reach out to earlier in the transition to civilian life. He also updated the group that the county Veteran Service Officers are projected to stay on track or even beat last year's 485 million in new claim generation of benefits for Veterans and their Families. Further, CalVet trained 113 new accredited representatives, enhancing the agency's ability to connect with Veterans throughout the state, especially in the rural areas.

Finally, Mr. Herrera stated that housing funds for Veterans were made available through Prop 41, which allows developers the opportunity to partner with community-based organizations to establish affordable housing for Veterans.

Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), provided updates on CalCompete, a tax credit and grant programs for companies that come to California to invest and create quality jobs in the state. GO-Biz gave a large credit to Controlled Thermal Resources, a company that is pioneering a new lithium extraction method in Imperial County, also referred to as Lithium Valley. For both economic and national security interests, the Biden administration is leading the effort to try to reshore and source those minerals at home. Next, she explained how the Community Economic Resilience Fund, working with OPR and the Labor Department, is working to create bottom-up regional economic planning by dividing the state into thirteen regions to identify what are the critical developing and growing industry in those regions. This program is now renamed the California Jobs First Program and is a multi-agency effort that includes Natural Resources, OPR, Environmental Protection Agency, and CalVet. The purpose is to look across the administration to make sure all resources and programs are aggregated in service of making sure job training and workforce development are aimed towards the industry of the future.

Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Ms. Melinda Gates, Undersecretary, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency, started by stating the online portal for expediting spousal licensure in the

state is up and running. She concluded her comments by announcing the Governor's initiative for mental health services in the state, Prop 1. She stated there is \$2 billion in funding available for support of housing services, half of which is available to Veterans through CalVet and Health Services.

California Military Department

Major General Matthew Beevers, the Adjutant General, CA Military Department, briefed on the State Partnership Program (SPP) with Nigeria and their three-prong training focus on air-ground integration to improve precision targeting, women peace in security, a program started by the Biden/Harris Administration that informs that if more women were in charge there would be less wars; and non-commissioned officer (NCO) development. He then briefed on the SPP with Ukraine, which focused on the three critical areas of chemical decontamination, behavioral health and small unit tactics.

He went on to state the 144 Fighter Wing recently concluded its Freedom of Flight deployment, an international diplomacy operation with the Philippine Air Force. This partnership seeks to ensure safe flight in the South China Sea. They are now focused on the recapitalizing of the F-15C to F-15EX. This is just one mission of the additional 700 Soldiers and Airmen deployed across 17 different countries who continue to be internationally engaged.

Domestically, the National Guard continues to support customs and border protections operations to interdict fentanyl across all four ports of entry and have expanded to aerial ports and seaports. At the local level, they continue to support the city of San Francisco in a variety of ways to counter the fentanyl challenges the city has and provide criminal analysts in high traffic areas, including using seasoned prosecutors within the California State Guard (different from the National Guard - the State Guard is an organization within the NG that is made up of volunteers who do not necessarily have prior military experience, but the desire to serve in a volunteer status and maintain the values of California. Over the past 21 months, the State Guard has been professionalized, under Brigadier General Darrin Bender, and they add extraordinary value through medical, legal, and general support that enables National Guard units to focus on fighting the wars) to try fentanyl cases and preliminary hearings resulting in jail time.

The department projects the 40th Infantry Division will soon possess the aerial drone Grey Eagle and the 129th Rescue Wing will recapitalize with the C-130J and HH-60W helicopters, which are important for the rescue mission. Further, the Army

has refocused their recruiting efforts in California, which have seen an increase of 46% and a retention rate of 16% this last year, all with only 160 recruiters across the state.

Finally, there is an attempt by the Secretary of the Air Force to disregard the Governor's consent authorities under Title 32, but the State is fighting it due to the value the Space Squadrons provide in combating forest fires. Rhys Williams noted that Governor Gavin Newsom has been engaged in the space discussions through the National Guard Association. He further congratulated the Air Force on uniting 54 Governors and States, for the first time, to discuss Space Force and Space National Guard, acknowledging that Fire Guard is an invaluable asset to the state and to CalFire in assessing wildfires in the United States and Canada.

Office of the Governor

Mr. Rhys Williams, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom provided an update on the Governor's Budget, expected to be signed on June 30. On Friday, Governor Newsom proposed to reset and address the fiscal shortfall every year to mitigate a growing gap between capital gains and deficits. He was confident the Legislature would come together to address the needs of budget in time. He thanked individual Councilmembers, the Chair and the Executive Director for efforts in China Lake and on energy capacity efforts.

Councilmember Updates

Vice Chair, Lieutenant General (Retired) Ed Hanlon briefed the Council on his participation in the ADC Summit in Washington and a last-minute trip to China Lake. He reminded the Council that in July 2017, a series of earthquakes occurred and over 4 months, there were 4,000 aftershocks that resulted in a lot of destruction on base. It did not take long for the federal government to allocate \$4B emergency funds to repair the infrastructure of the base. Since that visit and this most recent one, Vice Chair Hanlon stated he saw a transformation on the base with the removal of old buildings and replaced with the state-of-the-art facilities which will allow for China Lake to elevate its operations to a state that cannot be replicated elsewhere in the country. He concluded with a dire comment on the potential risk of losing the local medical, which would severely impact the workforce and, thus, the China Lake mission and National Security entirely.

With regards to the Summit, Chair Breckenridge mentioned concerns raised about the civilian workforce and quality of life. She attended a meeting with the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army (DUSA) and discussed that DoD needs to take a hard look at the world locations and total workforce, not just active duty, realizing the importance of what civilians represent, acknowledging that the traditional approach of the Federal Government for how benefits and services are provided to the civilian and military workforce are being challenged in rural environments. She was positive that DUSA is aware, and the issue is not being taken lightly.

Conclusion

After asking for any last-minute discussion items and hearing none, Chair Breckenridge thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting concluded at 11:23am.