



**Military Transformation Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

A Regular Meeting of the Military Transformation Task Force was held in the Municipal Plaza, Room B, 103 South Main, San Antonio, TX 78205 on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

MEMBERS:	Jesse Hereford	Eric Stephens	Robert Murdock
Joe Krier	John McCarthy	Mark Frye	Scott Gray
Kevin Wolff	John Williams	Howard Peak	
Caroll Schubert			
ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION:	Fil Jimenez <i>JBSA, 502nd Air Base Wing</i>	Rich Crider <i>Port San Antonio</i>	Dave Petersen <i>SA Chamber of Commerce</i>
STAFF:	Jesus Garza	Alexander J. Pytel	Connie Laredo-Zepeda
GUESTS:	Byron Gepson	Nicholas Bennett	
Mark Schnur	Walter Ague	Jorge Monserrate	
Gabriel Gonzales	Justin Renteria		

Call to Order

Commissioner Wolff called the meeting to order.

Citizens to be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

Review and Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2015

The Minutes of April 21, 2015 were unanimously approved.

Administrative Business

Upcoming MTTF Meetings

Mr. Robert Murdock reported that future meeting dates and places were yet to be determined due to the beginning of the San Antonio City Council Meetings next month.

Information Items

Texas Military Communities Mayor’s Forum

Mr. Murdock reported that the Mayors of all local military communities had been actively engaged in the State Legislative Session to secure funding in order to increase the value of military installations. He noted that the Mayor’s Forum initially desired the allocation of \$150 million to Texas military installations and were successful in allocating \$30 million for the next two years. He added that the first \$15 million would be available the first of September and the second \$15 million would be available in 2016. He stated that the Texas Military Preparedness Commission has grant authority and a vehicle for dissemination called the Defense Economic Adjustment Grant (DEAG). He indicated that those grants were originally only available to communities strictly to assist local redevelopment authorities but can now be granted to communities that have experienced military growth. He noted that the Mayor’s Forum will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and examine how the Texas Congressional Delegation can secure funding for local military installations.

State Legislative Recap

Mr. Murdock reported support for three pieces of legislation, two of which passed:

1. The first piece of legislation that passed focused on development and requires municipalities to confer with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) regarding municipal ordinances and plans. He indicated that the legislation expands the Texas Local Program to include both Bexar County and Guadalupe County and ensures good communication between municipalities and local communities.

2. The second piece of legislation that passed enabled the creation of a Regional Military Sustainability Commission for JBSA which can recommend approval or denial to its senior organization, whether County or City. He added that the Commission will have no zoning authority and would act exclusively as a recommending body.
3. The third piece of legislation which did not pass required the Texas Real Estate Commission to provide a disclosure form to potential buyers near military installations in order to inform buyers of their proximity to military bases. He specified that JBSA originally wanted the legislation bracketed to Randolph but the State Real Estate Commission Lobbyists expressed support for a Texas wide resolution. He added that passage of the legislation next session was likely due to the support of the Real Estate Lobbyists.

Mr. Murdock noted previous listening sessions in which the military explained the need for downsizing and afforded opportunities for citizens to voice their concerns. He stated that the absence of high level political leaders hindered the community's efforts to secure funding for area installations. He reported that the United States Army would be reducing its force to 450,000 people. He indicated that Fort Hood personnel would be reduced by 3,300 soldiers and that Fort Sam would be reduced by 330 personnel. He explained that these cuts would take place through attrition meaning that jobs would not be filled as they become available. He added that personnel cuts would continue as long as budget sequestration remains in effect but that community support would ensure local installations would be low risk for future cuts.

SAWS Impact Water Fees

Councilman Krier reported that a major issue for local military installations was interconnecting the bases to the water main in order to provide water service to the military. He stated that the military was going to ensure that the proposed water supply would be in compliance with Federal and EPA Regulations. He noted that updates had not been provided as of yet.

Mr. Sam Mills presented information and options for SAWS to provide potable or recycled water service to Joint Base San Antonio. He stated that SAWS was ready to address JBSA needs including serving as the primary source of water or as a backup provider for the installation. He explained that service to Randolph AFB is cost-prohibitive and a major expense since the base is nearly 9 miles from the nearest available water mains. He indicated that standard requirements are for government entities to pay for connection to the water system so rates remain stable and added that SAWS cannot waive impact fees; the San Antonio City Council can exclusively waive impact fees.

Commissioner Wolff noted that the next step was to communicate with JBSA to determine specific water needs for the installation and where funding might be secured.

Update from MTF Committee Chairs, Joint Base San Antonio, and Other MTF Organizational Representatives Neighborhoods and Real Property Committee (Chair: Howard Peak)

Mr. Howard Peak reported that there were no new issues to present relevant to Fort Sam.

Communication and Legislative Affairs (Co-Chairs: Mark Frye and Jesse Hereford)

Mr. Mark Frye stated that he participated on a panel promoting exporting the Brooks City Base issue across the country at the recent Association of Defense Communities National Summit. He noted that there were alternatives to consider if Congress was not ready to give the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Authority.

Mission Readiness & Sustainability Committee (Co-Chairs: Eric Stephens and John Williams)

Mr. Eric Stephens presented an overview of the Joint Land-Use Study for JBSA Lackland and reported that the next steps included presenting information on the Dark Skies Lighting Order/Ordinance at the next Commissioner's Court Meeting on August 4, 2015. He referenced lighting graphs showing the increase in City Lighting near the Medina Training Annex where Firing Range Training takes place using night vision goggles. He explained that the sky over the Training Annex is 10 times brighter than a sky without artificial lighting and noted that the Dark Skies Lighting Order proposed the creation of two Military Lighting Regions (MLRs) and five Development Category Designations (DCs).

Mr. John Williams reported that all parties were working diligently in the Joint Land-Use Study for JBSA Randolph and noted that the surrounding cities of Converse, San Antonio, Selma, and Schertz were actively involved. He stated that the next steps of the study entailed the implementation of 126 identified strategies. He indicated that noise could become a potential issue in the future and mentioned that an avian infestation was currently affecting Randolph and jet engines utilized by the United States Air Force. He added that said infestation could become more problematic with the anticipated advent of single engine jet planes.

Updates from Joint Base San Antonio and Other MTF Organizational Representatives

Mr. John Williams stated that there were no outstanding issues to report.

Mr. Eric Stephens reported that the last meeting of the JBSA Community Partnership Initiative was held on July 14, 2015 which included a two hour informational presentation that identified three priority areas: 1) Infrastructure, 2) Energy, and 3) Quality of Life. He specified that approximately 7 initiatives had been completed including bus transportation, VIA traffic studies and transportation issues, and joint explosives training for Fire, Police, and Emergency Services Personnel. He mentioned active initiatives and detailed workforce development for members of the Air Force that are preparing to retire or separate from the military. He specified that the purpose of the initiative was to retain and train retired service members in order to help them secure skilled jobs in the community.

Mr. Fil Jimenez mentioned the storm water fee and the financial impact to Fort Sam Houston. Mr. Bob Murdock stated that the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department of the City of San Antonio would oversee the storm water drainage fee.

Mr. Rich Crider reported that Port San Antonio had participated in the Community Partnership Initiative and was currently working with the Air Force. He mentioned an active request to change industrial zoning south of the airfield to residential within the Accident Potential Zone 1. He stated that efforts would continue in cooperation with the associated Departments of the City Government.

Adjourn

*Respectfully submitted,
Alexander J. Pytel, Office of the City Clerk*

*Please visit the Military Transformation Task Force website: www.sanantonio.gov/oma
Audio recording is available at the Office of Military Affairs*

Attachments:

1. Military Transformation Task Force PowerPoint Presentation