



Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7th, 2014
Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 W Washington St, Phoenix, Arizona 85007



Maj Gen Michael T. McGuire
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I. Call to Order: Co-Chair Lisa Atkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call: The following Commissioners were present who created a quorum:

Lisa Atkins, Co-Chair, Member with military affairs expertise
Col Thomas Finnegan, USA Ret., Co-Chair, Member with military affairs expertise
Brig Gen Ralph Browning, USAF Ret., Member with military affairs expertise
Edward H. Dupstadt, Private property interests member
Supervisor Gregory Ferguson, Local elected official
Michael Francis, Private property interests member
Supervisor Clint Hickman, Local elected official (10:54)
LtGen Robert Johnston, USMC Ret., Member with military affairs expertise
Mayor Rick Mueller, Local elected official
Monsignor Richard O'Keefe, Member with military affairs expertise
Supervisor Ramon O. Valadez, Local elected official

The following Advisory Members were present:

The Adjutant General, Maj Gen Michael T. McGuire (Advisory)
William Boyd, representing State Land Commissioner Vanessa Hickman (Advisory)
Brig Gen Michael Rothstein, Luke AFB Commander, Arizona Commanders Summit Chair (Advisory)

Governor's Liaison and Staff Present:

Dr Joseph Cuffari, Military Policy Advisor to Governor Janice K. Brewer
Travis Schulte, Legislative Liaison, Department of Emergency & Military Affairs

Absent members: Priscilla Storm, Anthony Smith, Michael Werner (Advisory), Attorney General's Office

III. Approval of Minutes from 5 November 2013 MAC Meeting:

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Co-Chair Atkins requested a motion to approve the minutes of the 5 November 2013 Military Affairs Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner O'Keefe

Second: Commissioner Dupstadt

Discussion: Commissioner Francis stated that the minutes reflect he made a motion to recommend the purchase of the Ashby property, but recalled that the motion was for an easement. Co-Chair Atkins directed staff to further research. Upon researching, the minutes only reflect the recommendation to purchase the offer submitted by the property owner, not the specifics of the purchase. In the case of the Ashby application, the offer submitted was for the purchase of the real estate and development rights of the property in question.

Motion approved 10-0

Dr Joseph Cuffari, Military Policy Advisor to Governor Janice K. Brewer, took a moment to introduce distinguished guests Brig Gen Michael Rothstein, Commander of Luke Air Force Base, COL Reed Young, Commander at Yuma Proving Ground, and Col Robert Kuckuck, Commander of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and personally thank them for their service to our country as well as our state.



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This was the last Military Affairs Commission meeting for all three Commanders as they are leaving this summer. Dr Cuffari noted that each Commander has been a strong supporter of the Military Affairs Commission and their departure will be a loss for Arizona.

Brig Gen Rothstein will be deploying to Afghanistan for his next assignment. Dr Joseph Cuffari introduced Col Kuckuck's replacement, Col Rick Martinez, who was in attendance after recently arriving from assignment at the Pentagon.

Dr Cuffari recognized Representatives Darin Mitchell and Sonny Borrelli who were also in attendance.

IV. Governor Brewer's Executive Order 2014-02

Dr Joseph Cuffari informed the Commission that in January 2014 Governor Brewer signed an executive order tasking the Military Affairs Commission certain additional responsibilities, one of which is the preparation for and update to the Economic Impact of Arizona's Principal Military Operations (Maguire) Study by Alan Maguire, an economist who has prepared two previous studies and provided a briefing later in the meeting.

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins asked if there were any questions from the Commissioners regarding the Executive Order. No questions or comments were raised.

V. Presentation by the Adjutant General, Maj Gen Michael T. McGuire

The Adjutant General, Maj Gen Michael T. McGuire, provided a briefing that was prepared by the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs at the request of Governor Brewer. This briefing has been presented to the State Legislature and to our federally elected officials over the last couple months to ensure everyone understands the present state of affairs of emergency and military operations in the State of Arizona.

As Adjutant General, Maj Gen McGuire is an advocate for the guardsmen assigned to the Arizona Army and Air National Guard and for the installations that are resident in the State of Arizona, including air space ranges and impact areas.

Maj Gen McGuire's DEMA presentation included:

- DEMA's mission, vision and values
- Command Structure overview, beginning with Governor Brewer as Commander in Chief
- Force Strength, with total DEMA manning of 8,190
- Division of Emergency Management overview
- Arizona Army National Guard overview, totaling 5,190 soldiers spread over four commands
- Arizona Air National Guard overview, comprised of two wings in Arizona (TUC & PHX)
- Map of Arizona National Guard Readiness Centers and Training Areas
- Map of Arizona's Reserve Centers for the 7,400 Reservists in Arizona
- Map of the five Active Duty Installations for the 23,400 Service Members in Arizona
- Estimated Veteran population of 600,000, bringing total military-affiliated population in Arizona to 638,400
- Economic impact of Arizona's Principal Military Operations totaled \$9.1 billion total economic impact in 2008, with \$401.41 million in revenue to the state, counties and cities.



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Maj Gen McGuire also discussed details of the Defense Department's FY15 budget request:

- The Air Force's FY15 budget proposal includes the retirement of 83 A-10 Thunderbolt II's and 7 EC-130H's at Davis-Monthan AFB, a gain of 6 MQ-9 Reapers for the ANG 162nd Wing, and a rotation of 21 F-16's from Hill AFB to Davis-Monthan AFB in FY19.
- The Army's FY15 budget request includes the reduction of force structure in the Active Component to 480,000 soldiers, the request to off-ramp 15,000 Guardsmen nationwide from 350,000 to 335,000, and the reduction of the Reserve Component by 10,000 from 205,000 to 195,000. The Army has not provided a breakout of state by state impact.
- The only Army-specific state impact that has been identified is in Arizona's National Guard Component. The Army's budget request proposes transferring the 25 Apache attack helicopters stationed at Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana into either spare status or to Fort Hood, Texas. The net loss to that battalion would be 341 positions at a facility that currently houses 602, so over a 50% reduction in soldiers that are drilled at Silverbell supporting Guard and Army missions.
- The Marine Corps has decided to consolidate their F-35 training at Yuma Marine Corps Air Station, which is good news for Arizona.
- Governor Brewer has directed that offset plans be created to build an adequate bridging strategy for Davis-Monthan AFB. There is consensus among state leadership, the Commissioners and federally elected officials that 21 F-16s do not support the amount overhead and infrastructure that is presently resident at Davis-Monthan AFB. The potential loss of positions with the retirement of the A-10 was conservatively estimated at 2,250 full time positions, which are direct military positions. Affected contractors and local employers were not included in that estimate. The Air Force essentially opened the door to the idea of having Davis-Monthan AFB convert on the fighter side to the F-16 mission, and we are actively exploring opportunities with the Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff to robust that F-16 mission capability at Davis-Monthan.
- On the Apache front, just yesterday the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee presented their mark-up of the National Defense Authorization Act and they, along with a Senate amendment introduced yesterday by Senators Graham and Leahy, have asked to pause the divestiture of the Apache helicopter from the eight states whose National Guard currently provides the Apache combat reserve capacity to the Army until a study can be done on the total Army to determine how many soldiers are really needed and how they should be distributed.
- Governor Brewer has expressed her position to the Secretary of Defense that she is very concerned about the precedent that's established by having Army attack aviation be the first non-nuclear weapon system that has no resident reserve capability.
- These recent House and Senate developments are encouraging. Here in Arizona, we need to continue to advocate on why there is greatness in Marana and on our state's ability to perform the attack aviation mission, which dates back to the Post-Vietnam era training Cobra pilots and transitioned to an Apache training site for all the same reasons that other air training missions are done in Arizona at Luke AFB, Davis-Monthan AFB, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and the expansion of the remotely piloted missions at Fort Huachuca for both the Army and Air Guard.

Dr Cuffari stated that Maj Gen McGuire mentioned the commission to study and make recommendations on the force structure of the Army, and asked if he could briefly speak about the comparable study completed by the Air Force and what those recommendations were.

- Maj Gen McGuire stated that when the Department of the Air Force submitted their budget request for 2013, there was a similar concern in Congress about the proper shaping and balancing of the force. In the FY 2013 NDAA, a Commission was appointed and the results of that Commission were briefed in January 2014.



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- The response from Congress is that this was a successful endeavor and that the Air Force has done a very effective job in considering implications to local communities with their changes going forward.
- A Commission on the Army would be structured in similar language. The President gets four appointments, the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate each get two, and there are two at-large appointments. The Commission would visit Active, Reserve and Guard units around the country and report back to the House and Senate on their results. It would not just be a look at the Active Army and Apache fleet; it would be a look at the total Army, Active, Reserve and Guard, at large.

VI. MAC Business

- Dr Cuffari asked Commissioners to refer to Governor Brewer's Executive Order and identified two action items for the Military Affairs Commission. One is to update the Economic Impact of Arizona's Principal Military Operations (Maguire) study, which would be discussed later by Alan Maguire. Another is to prepare for a potential BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). The President and Secretary of Defense have requested a BRAC Commission within the next year. Whether that will be approved remains to be seen, but as a function of being good stewards for the state's military installations the Governor's Office will be engaging more frequently with the Military Affairs Commission and posturing the state to be the most friendly to retain those bases that Arizona currently has as well as drawing in missions from other states.

Dr Cuffari introduced Patt Parker, who recently retired as a senior executive from the Defense Department and previously worked BRAC issues for the State of Maryland. Dr Cuffari thanked Ms Parker for agreeing to share those insights that she has learned from those respective services with the Commission, and stated Arizona is fortunate to have her expertise available.

Ms Parker spoke briefly about her background, including that although she has recently moved to Arizona, Arizona is her family's home state, that she is the daughter, wife and mother of veterans and is a graduate from the National War College. Based on that framework, she wished to challenge the Commission in a couple of areas by stating that although we cannot control what may go on at the Pentagon and the Capitol right now, we can make the environment for Arizona to benefit from those decision better through the support of our installations, which are critical, the Governor's desire to support the military and its function, and the value the military has, not only by what they offer to our national security but also to enhance our community as well.

There are three challenges that Ms Parker addressed for the commission:

- Being prepared, by looking at three options: the closing of a base, increasing the footprint of a base, or remain status quo. These are not the type of analyses that can be made overnight. There are many members on the Commission and within the communities that are experts in many of the areas that we will need to make a difference. We will need a Red Team and well as a Blue Team to play the game well to identify areas where we can find missions that can be relocated to Arizona to fill our Commander's installations to capacity, as well as being creative.
- Having the state buy-in. We need not only our community's support and involvement, but also from our legislators at the local, state and federal level, our economic development partners, Chambers of Commerce, employers, defense contractors, Governor's Cabinet members, the Commissioners, basically everyone. This isn't a task the State can do on its own, and it's very critical not only to our economies but also our



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national security. One word to describe the effort is “synergy”, and we need to work and develop synergy amongst ourselves.

- We must speak with one voice and recognize that Arizona has only one spokesperson in the state for what’s happening with our response to BRAC, Governor Brewer. Governor Brewer is vested in this, and she’s supportive of our efforts to make BRAC a success.

Co-chair Atkins thanked Ms Parker for speaking, and thanked her for including the Legislature which showed tremendous support during the previous BRAC by improving the state’s standing as far as compatibility standards and leading in the nation in some of those areas. Co-chair Atkins also expressed appreciation to the members of the Legislature attending the meeting.

Mayor Mueller thanked Ms Parker for attending the meeting and agreed with her comments. Mayor Mueller stated that Sierra Vista has had all of the same discussions and is very grateful to see state leadership on this issue.

- Co-chair Atkins stated that the Commission has a great foundation that was set during the previous BRAC. One of the Commission’s first tasks will be to update the state’s previous BRAC analysis to reflect all of the changes over the past 10 years, identifying what needs updating, added and/or improved. This will be an all hands on deck exercise that will require everyone’s support.

Co-chair Atkins thanked the Legislature and the Governor for extending the Commissioners opportunity to serve for another eight years, which would be discussed later in the meeting, and stated that another component that has been so important, particularly with Ms Parker’s reference to the economic development partners, is the 2008 Economic Impact of Arizona’s Principal Military Operations study; fondly referred to as the Maguire study in honor of its author. Co-chair Atkins then introduced Mr Alan Maguire as the next speaker to discuss updating to the study.

Dr Cuffari noted that the Governor’s Office, in concert with the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), has retained Mr Alan Maguire’s services and thanked the Commission’s partners at the ACA for their assistance in this endeavor.

Mr Maguire thanked the Commission and expressed his gratitude for being involved in this process over the last decade that has yielded wonderful results for the State of Arizona.

- This will be the third iteration of the report, previous reports gathered data from 2002 and 2007. This report will use 2013 data.
- The first report was funded by a group called the Military Mayors, who recognized the importance of the military to their cities and came together to fund the report. The second report was funded by the then Arizona Department of Commerce, which has evolved into the Arizona Commerce Authority who is funding the third report.
- The timing of the report is great as we are in challenging times, which was discussed earlier.
- Why did we do the report? When the report was first done, it looked at the military as a distinct industry in Arizona and its overall importance to Arizona’s economy since before statehood rather than treat each installation individually. With this perspective, common factors were identified at each installation that began to define the military industry. This perspective was important to the economic development partners because they talk about industry clusters and their importance in building an economy.



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- Arizona was the first state to study the military's economic impact in this way, and the 2002 report was the first of its kind in the nation. A number of other states have since replicated the process.
- The important aspect about the study is that it builds the foundation to talk to local communities about on how important the installations are to them and with the State Legislature and others at the state level about how important the military industry is to the State of Arizona. As a consequence of the good work put forth by a number people, the findings of the report were used to make an argument to protect bases from encroachment, and particularly to protect access to the Barry M Goldwater Range. This was a fundamental change.
- The analysis is driven by actual verified internal data from each of the installations, everything they do in terms of spending, activity and personnel, which is then run through an analytical model that produces direct, indirect and induced economic and fiscal impacts. Maj Gen McGuire cited the conclusions of the 2008 study in his presentation, which are impactful numbers to a state and local governments that have continuing economic financial stress. The analytical model is called IMPLAN, which was used previously and will be used again. IMPLAN was used in particular because it was developed by an economist at the University of Minnesota and is not a local model, which ensures the conclusions of the report are not considered biased. The Department of Defense (DoD) uses the same model, and although there may be slight differences in the conclusions the DoD accepts Arizona's conclusions as their numbers because there are no fundamental questions about the analytical process.
- Mr Maguire thanked the outgoing and incoming commanders for giving their personnel the opportunity and time to help provide the data. Efforts will be mobilized this month to roll out the data collection from the installations.
- Mr Maguire expressed his appreciation for updating the report now during Governor Brewer's terms as she has been a long supporter of the military in Arizona, going back to her time as a Legislator, County Supervisor and now as Governor.

Brig Gen Browning asked Mr Maguire what the target fiscal year was for the data that he plans to collect. Mr Maguire answered that the plan is to use the fiscal year that ended last fall. Mr Maguire stated that there have been conversations on what the right time is, and the FY2013 data was best as it provides a stable data point. Individuals who have been through the data collection process previously are still available at some installations, and the hope is to utilize their expertise to help their peers who have not been through the process.

Co-Chair Col Finnegan stated that some individuals he has spoken with at Fort Huachuca stated that mining old data can be problematic when you have 19 different commands.

Co-Chair Col Finnegan inquired if non-DoD operations present on the installations, such as the Border Patrol flying mission at Fort Huachuca, get wrapped into the report. Mr Maguire stated that they have historically used a narrow definition of only Defense related activity and not necessary independent activity on the facility that may happen to be co-located. This was done to frame the study's conclusions within the confines of a BRAC discussion, which would not affect other agencies' activities on the facility unless it was closed.

Brig Gen Browning commented that plan to fulfill the Governor's request in her executive order will require the gathering of data that is not strictly the economic data that Mr Maguire will be gathering. A lot of that additional data will be operational, and that's how other resident missions



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such as Border Patrol, Homeland Security, etc, will be brought in. Brig Gen Browning stated there are probably more missions than what we know of until we ask the questions. The operational data collected previously has been compatible with the economic data produced. The gathering of the data is a lot of work for the installations and the commands for all services. Brig Gen Browning suggested that a plan be created so that when Mr Maguire visits an installation to gather the economic data he be accompanied by the individual who will be tasked with capturing the broader, operational picture so that the two are not only compatible but also minimizes the workload for the people on the installations as there is a great deal of overlap, but there are unique aspects to each of the two.

Dr Cuffari thanked Brig Gen Browning for raising the issue and stated that the Governor's Office was tracking that issue and has asked Mr Maguire to coordinate his efforts at the installations with the Governor's Office to ensure he and whoever else in the group will be going out to the installations will be doing it all at one time to lessen the burden on the installations.

Brig Gen Browning asked if there was a timeline for this effort, and Dr Cuffari stated that he suspects within the next two weeks an office will be formed in the Governor's staff to work side by side with Mr Maguire to handle those operations issues Brig Gen Browning suggested.

Brig Gen Browning stated that if this will be a meaningful effort we need to proceed soon so that everyone knows what is going on. Decisions or recommendations that may come out of this effort are not things that can be done overnight, but it also supplies information to the necessary supporting cast, not just the installation commanders and Maj Gen McGuire, but also all those others that we hope will actively support this effort that Ms Parker mentioned, people in the Legislature, our delegation and so on, and we'll have to go brief them and take the information to them particular those inside the beltway.

LtGen Johnston stated he also shared Co-Chair Col Finnegan's concern that the most important thing is the operations side of this thing. LtGen Johnston stated last time we had Congressional driven BRAC, but this time he thinks we will have a service driven BRAC. LtGen Johnston stated that he thinks our bases are pretty solid except Davis-Monthan, which could be really vulnerable and should have a high emphasis placed on it. LtGen Johnston asked Maj Gen McGuire from an Air Force standpoint if there was any sense or any impending decisions made at the service level that might suggest Davis-Monthan could be really hard to protect.

Maj Gen McGuire stated that he had the opportunity to attend the budget roll-out with Governor Brewer, and Secretary Hagel told the eight Governors on the Council that DoD-wide they felt they had 28 percent more overhead than they actually needed for their missions and service members nationwide. There was no appropriation for a BRAC in the NDAA markup released yesterday, but there was language that said the DoD could deliver a report on where they felt the excess was. In Maj Gen McGuire's opinion, the most vulnerable installations in the state based on the President's current budget request are first, Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, and second, Davis-Monthan, which are both in the same metropolitan area.

Co-chair Atkins spoke to LtGen Johnston's comments that we will be focusing on these issues over the next few weeks to get everything lined up. Staff distributed articles to the Commission articles that came out of DC regarding these issues, and this will continue as we have access to that information to keep Commission members informed. Commission members will also be informed as far as the planning process goes to get the BRAC update up and running, the



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information gathered and keeping all the individuals coordinated so that all of the Commission members are aware of what's going on. Efforts will continue over the summer and we will not wait until the next Commission meeting to feed members information on when visits with installations are scheduled. Commission members in communities that have installations will be part of the conversation so that their valuable understanding of their community and those installations can be captured to enhance report and briefings that will be done throughout the state.

Brig Gen Browning suggested that a task force or committee be identified with a designated chair or co-chair that is sanctioned by the Governor and funded to operate as a legitimate authority to executive this task with Mr Maguire in order to build in accountability. Otherwise, with a volunteer committee the volume of work will not be able to be completed within a reasonable amount of time or quality. There also needs to be some funding to allow for the administrative overhead and expenses incurred, such as publishing the report, travel, etc. Brig Gen Browning stated the effort should not rely on an extra duty for state employees as that doesn't work very well.

Co-chair Atkins assured Brig Gen Browning that his previous work set a high bar that the Commission has every intention of meeting, and exceeding.

- Co-chair Atkins asked Mr Bill Boyd to provide an update from the State Land Department.

During the last General Election, the State Land Department was given the ability to exchange State Trust Land with other public lands to protect military installations.

- At the time of the approval, State Land's budget and staffing was reduced due to the Great Recession.
- State Land looked for a variety of ways to create a team to perform these exchanges.
- Each land exchange requires an economic study, an appraisal and a public hearing. Each exchange would also have to be approved by the Legislative and be voted on in a statewide election, so it is an involved process.
- State Land is happy to announce that it received in the FY2015 budget \$488,000 and 4 FTE's to get the program started
- Mr Boyd introduced Mr Richard Thompson, who has experience with State Trust Land in Alaska and was recently hired by State Land to manage the program.

Co-chair Atkins inquired about State Land Commissioner Hickman's efforts to apply for DoD grants to assist with the land exchange process. Mr Boyd stated they have been working with the Department of Economic Adjustment, which is part of the DoD that works to preserve bases, but part of the challenge is finding the situation when a federal grant fits. The grant process requires a beginning and an end, so State Land is looking at getting grants for specific studies and specific exchanges.

Co-chair Atkins welcomed Mr Richard Thompson and invited him to introduce himself and speak to the Commission. Co-chair Atkins told Mr Thompson that the Commission as previously constituted as the Military Facilities Task Force made a recommendation on land exchanges and was very pleased that the voters of Arizona agreed with them and even more pleased that the Legislature has been a great partner in getting a process setup.

- Mr Thompson introduced himself and stated he is a recent addition to the staff at the State Land office whose purpose is to administer the creation and implementation of the new trust land exchange program.



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- Mr Thompson has begun laying the groundwork for program implementation, including starting the rulemaking process to allow the trust land exchanges and creating position descriptions for staff.
- The recruitment and hiring process for the additional staff members is expected to begin shortly, with the goal of having staff start on July 1.
- Mr Thompson explained he recently finished 30+ years with the Natural Resource Department in Alaska, over 20 yrs of which was spent in a decision making capacity that gave him experience in preparing the administrative record for resource and land management. Per Mr Thompson, the two most important skills in working with resource and land management are problem solving and dealing with conflicts and differences of opinion. This includes maintaining transparency and inclusion as part of the process.

Supervisor Ferguson asked how the program worked, specifically what lands are eligible and who initiates the process. Mr Thompson stated that the rules are still being written, but there will be an application process and it has to be in the best interests of the state. Co-chair Atkins stated that only public lands are available for exchange, and Mr Thompson stated that the military installation initiates the exchange.

Supervisor Hickman asked Mr Thompson for information on the duties of the new four FTEs. Mr Thompson stated they are still being worked out, but the program will need skills with title work, survey assistance, contracting expertise and administrative assistance.

Co-chair Atkins thanked Mr Thompson for attending, and asked if he could keep the Commission informed as he creates the program.

- Co-chair Atkins spoke about the MAC Sunset Review and MAC Continuation process, which requires an audit by the state and a determination of whether or not the Commission is fulfilling its duties and has a purpose to continue. Co-chair Atkins recognized Representatives Darin Mitchell and Sonny Borrelli as two of the Legislators who participated in the Military Affairs Commission Sunset Review hearings. The Commission was very pleased with the questions they received from the House and Senate Committee of Reference that heard the Sunset Review process. Co-chair Atkins stated Arizona is very fortunate to have a Legislature that is very engaged in military issues across the state, and stated the questions received were very thoughtful and in-depth. Both of the authorizing committees in the House and the Senate unanimously passed the recommendation that the Commission be extended for another eight years, and passed unanimously again by both Chambers. Co-chair Atkins thanked both Representatives for the opportunity to testify and for their questions, and more importantly for their continuing support.

Co-chair Atkins made a call to the Commissioners for any items that they would like to discuss, ask questions about or make comments. No comments were made.

VII. Military Installation Fund Update

Staff reported that DEMA is currently engaged in the acquisition process for those property applications recommended for purchase by the Commission. DEMA is currently in the due diligence phase of the process, with the goal of completing the acquisitions by August.



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The Military Installation Fund did receive an appropriation of \$2.5 million in the FY2015 budget. Once the current acquisition process is complete, the Commission will then consider another round of acquisition requests. The next acquisition process is expected to happen in the fall.

Co-chair Atkins thanked the Legislators in attendance for their support of the Military Installation Fund as balancing private property rights near military installations is truly an important issue for the Commission and more importantly for the policy leaders in this state.

VIII. Call to the Public

Dr Cuffari recapped the military and veteran related legislation that was passed this Legislative Session.

Brig Gen Michael Rothstein took the opportunity to thank the Commission and the Co-chairs the support they give to our nation's Airmen and Luke Air Force Base. Brig Gen Rothstein stated that the U.S. Air Force is the greatest air force that has ever existed, but it couldn't exist without the support of the people, the Legislature and the Executive Branch of Arizona, and the support is phenomenal. Brig Gen Rothstein stated that we trust the Air Force to do the job that they do; we pay for the tools they need; we give our sons and daughters into their care and hope that they can defend our country and trust they turn them into great men and women when they return to society or continue their service as citizen-soldiers. Brig Gen Rothstein also thanked the Arizona Commanders' Summit and the Military Affairs Commission Co-chairs for their support.

Co-chair Atkins thanked Brig Gen Rothstein and stated we are grateful to have had him in Arizona, and appreciated all of his support and wished him well in his new assignment.

Representative Borrelli stated that the Arizona Housing Finance Authority voted unanimously to expand their Home+ program to offer veterans a five percent assistance payment that they can apply toward their down payment or home buying closing costs. Representative Borrelli was pleased to be able to accomplish this without legislation.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Francis moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dupstadt seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.