



12 January, 2023

The Honorable Paulette Guajardo  
Mayor of Corpus Christi  
P.O. Box 9277  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469

RE: 2022 South Texas Military Task Force Semi-Annual Report

Mayor Guajardo,

Thank you and the Corpus Christi City Council for your continued support in 2022 to our area military installations and the South Texas Military Task Force. As you know, our area military installations are an essential part of our local economy in addition to the critical role they play in our National Defense. This report highlights the work our area's Military Task Force, with the City's support, has accomplished in preserving, protecting, and expanding the value of military facilities in the Coastal Bend Region. Also, per our agreement we have included the accounting of our expenditures for this period in the form of our latest budget. I am available to answer any questions or further discuss details of the items in this report. Feedback is welcome anytime.

Again, thank you for the continued support of the City of Corpus Christi. The South Texas military is stronger because of you.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kresten Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kresten Cook,  
Executive Director, South Texas Military Task Force



**South Texas Military Task Force  
Activity Report to the City of Corpus Christi**

**July to December 2022**

Attended NASCC Change of Command Ceremony in which CAPT Chris Jason handed command over to CAPT Ty Jurica

Sent out news update that former CCAD Commander, Gail Atkins was promoted to Brigadier General! Sent note of congratulations to BG Atkins.

Assisted Mayor's Chief of Staff with updated email addresses of area Commanders for invitations to Mayor's "Big Bang" 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event.

Met with Rob McDonald, Director of the area Metropolitan Planning Office to check for any conflicts with the planned course for the Conquer the Coast Bike Ride on 17 September. Rob has lots of experience in military aviation/communities especially in developing JLUS. Rob offered to provide a short overview of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization at our next Quarterly Meeting scheduled for 17 August at 8:00 am.

Received and reviewed Texas Governor's report prepared by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. Latest annual economic impact of Corpus Christi Army Depot, 9,344 jobs, \$1.4B, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, 19,815 jobs, \$3.4B; Naval Air Station Kingsville, 4,442 jobs, \$752M.

Met with and thanked military personnel performing (IRT) Innovative Readiness Training for Nueces County. These Army and Marine personnel provided key services such as healthcare, construction, transportation and cybersecurity at no cost to the county.

for incoming CCAD Commander, COL Kyle Hogan. The event, held August 5-6 is sponsored by the Corpus Christi sailing community and provides an excellent opportunity for fellowship between South Texas military personnel and local sailing enthusiasts. The regatta features two days of multi-class sailing races, as well as the "Titanic Cup," a race which allows the service members to show their colors, imagination and sailing skills during a fun event for all.

Updated and prepared 1) Fact sheets on CCAD and NASCC, 2) Fact sheet on USCG- Corpus Christi Sector, 3) Announcement of NASCC's 2022 Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award.

Attended meeting of the Governors Committee to Support the Military to prepare legislative recommendations for the upcoming Texas session.

At the request of USCG-CC Sector Commander, forwarded information on the Customs/Border Protection Aerostat Prototype Testing in South Texas. This detection platform earned a reputation as a gamechanger against border security threats including illegal fishing, drug and human smuggling, and other illicit activity.

Attended Change of Command for Chief of Naval Air Training. At the request of CNATRA, obtained and provided text of the City Commendation to RDML Westendorff.

Sent contact info of new Area Military Commanders to Tammy E. to assist in invites to State of the City.

Purchased a table for State of the City and sent invitations to local TRAWING Commanders, CO of MATSG-22, CCAD Deputy to the Commander, and Kingsville NAS Commanding Officer.

Contacted Chief of Naval Air Training, to inquire which printer they used for their recent Change of Command brochure. The same type of brochure was requested by the Mayor's Office for State of the City.

The Bend magazine is focusing the next issue of the Bend Business magazine on the military, its importance to our community, and local military veterans who are prominent business leaders in the Coastal Bend. At the request of Bend publisher, Chris Knapick, provided him with names/contact info of local prominent veterans

Attended informal meeting on future options for South Texas USO and agreed to contact new NASCC Commanding Officer, CAPT Ty Jurica to discuss how to improve support to his enlisted military families.

Attended joint meeting of Corpus Christi City Council and City Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, 9 August and spoke in favor of proposed

Compatibility Overlay Districts for area military airfields. The amendment passed.

Attended planning meeting with UCCCC and REDC CEO, 8 AUG on next steps for Chief of Naval Air Training Quarters on NASCC

Received inquiry from CNATRA staffer on Corpus Christi Airport Parking fees for active military. According to the Texas DMV website, Air Medal (and Air with Valor Medal) plates should receive free parking and apparently CRP does not have the same policy. Airport Officials quickly responded positively to support this change.

Received inquiry from KRIS Channel 6 reporter on future potential of relocating Cabaniss Outlying Air Field. I declined to be interviewed and mentioned that our Task Force is divided on this issue.

Held STMTF Quarterly Meeting at Ortiz Center. Attendees included new Commanding Officers from CCAD and NASK. Meeting agenda included a report out from the TF's recent visit to Washington.

Presented STMTF and hosted luncheon at meeting with Navy Assistant Secretary, the Honorable Sandra Klien. The meeting attended by Mayor/City Manager of Kingsville, County Judges from Nueces and Kleberg County, and City of Corpus Christi Representatives focused on Energy Resiliency and our area military installations.

As member of the Texas Governor's Military Support Committee attended meeting on 18 August to review proposed legislation supporting the military across Texas.

Received a "Thank You" from the Mayor and City Representatives for supporting the recently (successfully passed) amendment to the City Unified Development Code (UDC) to adopt Military Compatibility Overlay Districts for area military airfields.

Attended Mayor's Interagency Meeting hosted by at Corpus Christi Boy's and Girl's Club on Friday 2 Sep.

Received inquiry from Army Aviation Association of America for STMTF to Co-host (with the City) the Networking Mixer at this Year's Luther Jones Aviation summit meeting in December at the Ortiz Center. Cost will be \$1,250.

Met with Chief Financial Officer of CCAD, Marcia Bischak, in how STMTF can support future CCAD projects.

Contacted AEP's new External Affairs Manager, Natalie Villarreal and provided her with an overview of the STMTF and thanked her for AEP's financial support.

Arranged visits and tours (with Texas Military Values Task Force Member, Dave Edgecomb and Texas Military Preparedness Commissioner, Gary Bradford) of Naval Air station's Corpus Christi and Kingsville set for 26 and 27 September.

Received invitation from National Security Innovation Council (NSIC) to meet/greet Kemba Walden, Principal Deputy for Cyber for the White House in Austin on 22 SEP.

Reviewed article received from Tom Tagliabue on infrastructure funding challenges for Navy Installations. Article is accurate and alarming. Looking at NASCC and NASK, It is not hard to see the results when annual required maintenance is funded at 25 to 50% - continuing degradation.

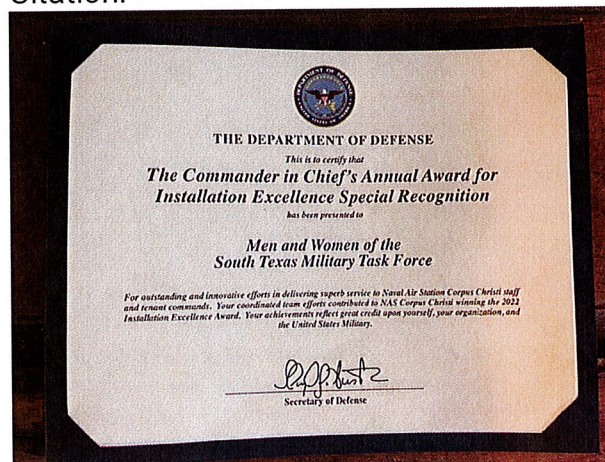
Link:

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3638811-is-our-navy-ready-for-a-looming-pacific-war/>

Teamed up with Texas Military Preparedness Commissioner, Garry Bradford, Texas Military Values Task Force member, Dave Edgecomb on visits to Naval Air Stations Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Monday and Tuesday. Met with Captains Ty Jurica, Eric Bonner and their staffs, including Kingsville City Manager, Mark McLaughlin, to receive Command briefs and tours of their Air Stations. Also received briefings on potential energy resiliency projects, current infrastructure challenges, potential future missions and related available capacity.

Honored to receive on behalf of the STMTF, the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence Special Recognition signed by Secretary of Defense, Lloyd D. Austin III. The Award recognizes the STMTF's service and efforts which contributed to NASCC Winning the 2022 Department of Defense Installation Excellence Award.

Citation:



Assistant for Cong Cloud of a \$33.4M contract for support to management and workforce for the Corpus Christi Army Depot Aircraft and Air Component Production organization. Requested from Tom, any update on improvements to the NASCC child Development Center.

Sent out Military Appreciation Dove Hunt invitations to local Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard commands and STMTF supporters. Answered several inquiries about the event from the invitees and their respective legal advisors to clear ethics reviews.

Met with Dr. Natalie Villarreal, AEP's new External Affairs Manager. Natalie offered continued AEP financial support to the STMTF as well as agreeing to assist in promoting STMTF's mission.

Working logistics for a STMTF Strategic Visioning Session for STMTF leadership to be held early December. Purpose is to develop an action plan to increase the effectiveness of STMTF's Mission: Promote, Protect, and Communicate the value of our area's military Installations.

Received tasking from Chairman Wilson to team up with other Military Support Organizations across Texas to synergize our mutual efforts to promote military installations and related legislative agendas across the state. Schedule a meet/greet with these organization leaders in conjunction with the Texas Military Summit scheduled for January in Austin

Assisted in setting up Congressman Cuellar's tour of NASCC and CCAD on 17 DEC

Supported Wes Hoskins and his First Community Bank team at the Annual Military Appreciation Dove Hunt. Military hunters from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard enjoyed a successful hunt and some Texas Style hospitality!

Provided STMTF update to Port of Corpus Christi Commission on 25 October.

Introduced to Dr. Ken Wisian, Associate Director, Environmental Division, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin on the possibility utilizing geothermal energy to support energy resilience at NASCC.

him, members of STMTF Executive Committee, and the governor's office to discuss strategy on SB277 in the upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

Updated the Workforce Development section for the Governor's Committee to support the Military's upcoming recommendations to the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session.

At the request of NASCC, assisted with legislative language to support Texas Department of Transportation's ability to provide services for Texas Military Installations.

Received good news from the Texas Governor's office of new Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) awards to Kingsville and Corpus Christi. The funds will be invested in infrastructure projects and other initiatives to increase the value of our area military installations as well as protecting jobs in our area:

- City of Corpus Christi: Awarded \$1,611,159 for Wastewater Collection System Line and Manhole Replacement at NAS Corpus Christi
- City of Kingsville: Awarded \$1,700,000 for Kingsville Fire & Rescue Facility at NAS Kingsville

Supported efforts that resulted in Kolda Elementary School being awarded a Purple Heart Designation school. At Kolda Elementary School, almost a tenth of the student population — have a parent serving active duty in the military. Numerous others have family connections to veterans.

Had discussion with County Judge Canales on how to have a smooth transition of County related STMTF activity to incoming Judge Connie Scott.

Arranged a tour of the NASCC Base theater to view firsthand the poor condition on this historic building and develop plans of action to bring this facility back into operation. Invited Congressman Cloud's District Manager, Mark Longoria to attend as well.

Responded to Dick Messbarger who provided information on a meeting he had with CNATRA about ongoing concerns with the lack of adequate flag level housing on NASCC. Updated Dick on local community activity and support underway to provide new CNATRA housing and invited he and the Kingsville Navy supporters to join our efforts.

Attended Army Aviation Association of America's Luther Jones Depot Forum on 6 December. Presented an STMTF update to over 400 attendees and attended the networking mixer co-hosted by STMTF and the City.

membership with his company General Electric Aviation. Working with Rick VanDerSteen, GE's area representative on this prospect.

Received a call from Judge Canales on the National Parks Service selection of Corpus Christi as an American World War II Heritage City. Our area is the sole WWII Heritage designation in all of Texas. Congratulations to all who worked on the application and nomination!

Here is the announcement: [National Park Service announces new American World War II Heritage Cities - Office of Communications \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Along with several members of the STMTF, met with State Rep Todd Hunter and representatives from Governor Abbott's office on 1 Dec at the Capital to discuss legislation supporting the military in South Texas.

Signed the 2023 Support Agreement with the Port of Corpus Christi.

Attended and participated in two-day Chamber Strategic Planning Session facilitated by new Chamber CEO, Al Arreola Jr.

Discussed with COL Kyle Hogan, Commander CCAD on potential future workload challenges with production of Victor Model Blackhawks, the largest current program at CCAD.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRESTEN COOK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**SOUTH TEXAS MILITARY TASK FORCE**