



27 August, 2021

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

RE: 2020 South Texas Military Task Force Semi-Annual Report

Mayor Guajardo,

The South Texas Military Task Force and our area Military Installations thank you and the Corpus Christi City Council for your continued support. The attached Semi-annual report from the STMTF outlines how we continue our work to promote, preserve, and protect our area's military operations. Also, per our agreement we have included the accounting of our expenditures for the past six months in the form of our latest budget. We are available to further discuss details of the items in this report and welcome your feedback anytime. Again, thank you for your support. The South Texas Military is stronger because of you.

Very Respectfully,

Alan Wilson,  
Chairman, South Texas Military Task force

Kresten Cook,  
Executive Director, South Texas Military Task Force



## **South Texas Military Task Force Activity Report**

**January to July 2021**

As member of the Texas Governor's Military Support Committee, responsible for submitting legislative agenda items on behalf of the Texas military community, finalized the Workforce Development section which calls for Increase Integration Between Texas Educational Providers and Military Installation/Industry Skill Requirements.

Attended Corpus Christi Mayor's Interagency meetings

Presented an STMTF update to the Nueces County Commissioner's Court. Received approval for 2021 contract.

Sent correspondence to US Representative Cloud describing the importance of the Military and associated industry to the Corpus Christi area and respectfully requested information on why he did not Support the recent National Defense Authorization Act.

Performed a year-end review of the STMTF budget and developed a Draft 2021 budget for STMTF Executive Committee Approval

Forwarded information and provided TEA contact on Purple Star School designation process to Leanne Libby, CCISD. Purple Star Schools help manage the challenges military-connected children face when they move between schools with different cultures, curricula, standards, course offerings, schedules and graduation requirements.

Reviewed REDC resolution on wind energy and prepared/provided a point paper on Wind Energy impact to the Military in Texas to John LaRue and Alan Wilson

Submitted letter to SEN Cornyn thanking him for supporting the National Defense Authorization Act.

Completed a compilation of large (over\$7.5M) defense contracts awarded in 2020 related to the Corpus Christi area. Intent it to solicit STMTF sponsorships from these contacts.

Sent letter of support for new TAMUCC Masters of Engineering programs to Dr. Kelly Miller, President/CEO, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Updated STMTF membership to Association of Defense Communities.

Received news that NASCC and City of Corpus Christi were awarded a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) for \$900K to improve the natural gas system aboard NASCC.

Set up and participated in conference call on 03 FEB with Mark Wagner, Deputy to the Commander CCAD and Larry Meyers/Tammy Embry to receive an update on CCAD's latest strategic priorities.

Made presentation on STMTF to San Patricio Commissioner Court on 01 FEB with Alan Wilson.

Participated in phone conversation with members of Powering Texas, an alliance of stakeholders advocating for wind power in Texas. Relayed concerns of military and provided resources to communicate wind power's effects on military air training.

Participated in 4-day Strategic Planning sessions for CCISD as a Community/Military member.

Continued work as a board member of USO South Texas.

Met virtually with Abby McHan, Cong. Cloud's Military Legislative Assistant. Initiated discussions on how Cong Cloud could support military related legislation for our area's installations and recommendations for this year's NDAA.

Met with Congressman Cloud in person Friday, 19 FEB, and communicated how he and his staff could better support our area's military installations.

Reviewed and signed 2021 Contract for Meyers and Associates.

Reached out to COL Parker, Mark Wagner, Ben Polak, and CAPT Jason to get details of their installation infrastructure needs/challenges and other areas the STMTF can support them in 2021.

Working support for proposed bill from Senator Hinojosa and Representative Raymond to expand authority of local governments to enter into Inter governmental Support Agreements with DOD Installations.

Continued to work as a board member of the USS Lexington Museum. Elected to Treasurer on Executive Board for 2021.

Received information from Tammy Embrey (thanks Tammy!) on grant opportunity for programs that improve the quality of life for active duty, reserve, or National Guard and/or veterans and their families. website: <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/newmans-own-grant/>. Shared this information with Sara Banta at USO South Texas – she is working application now.

Reviewed recently released (Feb 21) Executive Summary of the Economic Resilience Strategy & Diversification Study from the Texas General Land Office.

Participated in tour of CCAD with Mayor Guajardo and her father Mr. Juan Rodriguez, a USAF veteran, and retired CCADer. (event photo attached)

Attended Association of Defense Communities live national broadcast event which featured NAS Corpus Christi and its recent sea turtle rescue operations during the freeze event.

Provided feedback to and requested additional information from Larry Meyers as he garners congressional support for depots and DOD Industrial Base activity in areas of 50/50 law, A-76 Competition, Core workload, and Technical Data/Commercial Property challenges.

Attended virtually UCCCC Executive Committee meeting, to answer questions on military related legislative recommendation to the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas session now underway.

Following up on information Larry Meyers received from DASN (IE&F) [James Balocki](#), who reported concern about Corpus Christi Area Outlying Airfields, contacted NASCC Leadership (CAPT Jason, RDML Westerndorff, Commodore Rifas to on status report of outlying air fields Cabaniss and Waldron. Both fields were reported operational.

Met with CAPT Chris Jason, CO, NAS Corpus Christi to discuss the installations construction and infrastructure needs, possible future Intergovernmental Support Agreement, the Admirals house situation, future military presentations to the Corpus Christi City Council, and an acceptable date for the Conquer the Coast bicycle ride.

Met with Dick Messbarger and Sam Fugate, Mayor of Kingsville, to discuss how the STMTF can support NAS Kingsville and the current infrastructure priorities at NASK

Working on moving forward with the Admirals house project. Currently the private housing provider, Landmark LLC, has reported the project is not financially feasible, even if a new house was 100% gifted to the Navy.

Researched proposed Texas legislation that might impact funding of lobbyists and funding to UCCCC and STMTF.

Contacted Jim Moore, Executive Director of the Corpus Christi Performing Arts Center (PAC) on the possibility of gifting their seating to NASCC Wings Auditorium when it is replaced in an upcoming PAC renovation. The PAC seating is still in good condition and significantly better than the current seating (1942 vintage) on NASCC.

Updated and presented the STMTF Roadshow briefing, with Alan Wilson to the Corpus Christi Rotary Club on 1 April.

Sent out to the STMTF Executive Committee a Legislative Update on military related bills currently being considered in the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature and the current National Security Strategy received from Garry Bradford.

Signed a resolution in support of Congressional Community Project Funding approved by the STMTF Executive Committee.

Contacted area military installation leaders and received confirmation that they all had significantly higher electric bills for FEB 21 compared to the previous months and year. For example, NASCC's bill for FEB 20 was \$328,000 and their FEB 21 bill was more than \$11,200,000.

On behalf of Chairman Wilson, sent out to the STMTF Executive Committee a bio and nomination request for Mary Lupe Arana to be a new member of the Executive Committee.

Met with Mark Wagner, deputy to the commander, CCAD and received information on CCAD's military construction plans. Forwarded this information, and similar information received from NASK to Larry Meyers.

Participated with UCCCC staff in a short video recognizing CCAD's upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Attended meeting with Alan Wilson, Eric Villereall, Johnny Philipello, President & CEO of Buccaneer Days. Discussed 2021 Buc days logistics including the Wings Over South Texas Air Show and how to support area military with the event.

Prepared/delivered short personal video commemorating CCAD's upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Send congratulations to RDML Westendorff, CAPT Jason, and CAPT Rifas for graduating the first class of naval aviators in Naval Aviation Training Next-Project Avenger at Training Air Wing 4, Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi.

Continued to support Conquer the Coast bike ride Provided recommendations for ride logistics support. Working with CAPT Jason, CO NASCC on a date that would permit riders to pass through NASCC.

Attended the Coastal Bend Economic Development Summit, 16 April representing the STMTF.

Volunteered at the Wings Over South Texas Air Show in support of area military families and USO South Texas

Met with Drew Scheberle, National Security Innovation Council, an Austin-based 501(c)(6) non-profit initiative to optimize the national security communities of practice across the state and make Texas the go-to region for solving national security problems. Looking at ways NSIC and STMTF can work together.

Provided introduction of TAMUCC Lone Star UAS to the National Security Innovation Council

Provided procurement sources for area military aircraft models to Mike Culbertson at the CCREDC.

Coordinated invitations to STMTF members to meet/greet new commander of the 842nd Command hosted by the Port of Corpus Christi this Friday at the Port's administration building.

Worked with Mayor to set up rotating monthly military update from area commanders at City Council meetings.

Sent out the new Texas Military Values Report released this week from the Governor's office.

Presented an overview of the STMTF to Corpus Christi City Council meeting on 18 May.

Supported and participated in Celebrate the Progress of Corpus Christi event (and recognition of Peter Zanon's first year as our City Manager) on 22 May.

Received good news that SB 780 was signed by the Governor and is effective immediately. This bill provides authority for any local government entity in the State of Texas to enter into an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with military bases. Provided a quote from the STMTF to Judge Canales for the county's press release on this bill.

Attended San Patricio Commissioners Court to request 2021 financial support to the STMTF. Sent follow up letter to Judge Krebs

Receive good news from CAPT Jason that 18 September is a "Go" for Conquer the Coast Bike ride thru NASCC. Continued assistance to Conquer the Coast Committee.

Sent letter to Ken Griffin and AEP requesting 2021 financial support to the STMTF.

Participating on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi/ Nueces County working group to develop Intergovernmental Support Agreements which support NASCC with lower cost infrastructure improvement work resulting in savings to both the military and county taxpayers.

Made a STMTF presentation to the Corpus Christi Southside Rotary, 09 June.

Worked with Tammy Embrey on a city commendation for CAPT Ed Gaynor, Commander USCG Corpus Christi Sector who is changing command next week.

Preparing talking points for presentation (via Google meet) on the STMTF for the National Security Innovation Council scheduled for Monday, 14 June from 1330 – 1430 Supporters/Members Meeting, which will be held at the Army Futures Command Software Factory.

Made a STMTF presentation with Alan Wilson to the National Security Innovation Council on 14 June.

Attended the United States Coast Guard – Corpus Christi Sector Change of Command Ceremony on 18 June

Met with Mark Wagner, Deputy to the Commander, CCAD. Mark has accepted a position at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium and will be leaving South Texas in a few months.

Worked with Larry Meyers on possible earmarks for area military installations.

Attended 4<sup>th</sup> of July social gathering hosted by CAPT Chris Jason, CO NASCC.

Working with Mayor's chief of Staff, Arlene Medrano to finalize presentation dates for area Senior Military Leader presentations to City Council