



4 August, 2023

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

RE: 2023 South Texas Military Task Force Semi-Annual Report

Mayor Guajardo,

Thank you and the Corpus Christi City Council for your continued support to our area military installations and the South Texas Military Task Force. This report highlights the work our Task Force, with the City's support, has accomplished in preserving, protecting, and expanding the value of military facilities in the Coastal Bend Region. Our area military installations continue to be an essential part of the Corpus Christi economy in addition to the critical role they play in our National Defense. With continued support from City, we at the South Texas Military Task Force will remain diligent in ensuring our military facilities remain a valuable part of our city for years to come.

I have also included notes from our STMTF January Strategic Planning Session in which we laid out goals and objectives for our work into the future.

And finally, 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



MILITARY TASK FORCE

South Texas Military Task Force Semi-Annual Activity Report to the City of Corpus Christi January-July 2023

Accepted invitation from Judge David Krebs to serve on the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization's Regional Small Area Forecast Task Force.

Sent out invitations to area military leaders to participate in First Community Bank's Annual Quail Hunt.

Toured the Wings Auditorium on NASCC with Ben Polak. This facility was significantly damaged in Hurricane Harvey and is still unusable. NASCC is interested in getting this historic facility back into operational condition. Exploring potential options to make this happen.

Initiated contact with local General Electric rep, Rick Van Derostyne. Sent Rick the STMTF Roadshow PowerPoint presentation and invited GE to be part of the STMTF team.

Talked to Lisa Oliver, CC Parks Department who offered two positions on the Sherell Park Memorial Park Planning Committee to STMTF members.

Worked logistics and held the STMTF Executive Committee Strategic Planning Session. Meeting was well attended and good recommendations for STMTF work in 2023 were initiated. (Notes/Action plans from this meeting are attached in this report)

Attended 12 Jan City Council meeting to support City funding for STMTF. Item passed successfully.

Invited Mark MacLaughlin, Kingsville City Manager and former CO, NASK to the STMTF team.

Participated in the Navy's Distinguished Visitor Embark Program and was honored to fly out to the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier at sea during training operations. Received a tour of the ship, observed carrier landings by Navy pilots, spent the night aboard, and flew back to San Diego on a V-22 the following day. During participation in the Navy's Distinguished Visitor Embark Program, received the attached briefing overview of the US Navy and its importance to our Nation.

Forwarded to STMTF membership the latest annual report from the Governor's Committee to Support the Military which provides recommendations for policy changes and legislative action to improve education, health care, quality of life, workforce development, encroachment, and infrastructure as they relate to the military community of Texas. I participate as a member on this committee.

Attended (as area military representative team member) kick off meeting of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization's Regional forecast to the year 2050. Our group will review area population and employment projections that will result in insights to evaluate and prioritize over \$1B in state and federal transportation funds available for use in the Corpus Christi region between the years 2025 and 2050.

Set up special called meeting of the STMTF Executive committee for Thursday, 2 March to meet with STMTF lobbyist, Larry Meyers who will be in Corpus Christi.

Working with Steve Bonner on Nueces County IGSA Intergovernmental Support Agreements with NASCC and some of the current challenges with present County contractor work on NASCC.

At the request of Tom McCoullough, REP Cloud's Legislative Assistant, gathered up comments from STMTF members and Navy reps for input to the proposed Airspace Clearinghouse Enhancement Act. Participated in phone call on this matter with Larry Meyers and Keith Graff of the Texas Governor's Office.

Met with CCAD Commander Kyle Hogan and CCAD Deputy Rod Benson on concerns of declining workload at CCAD. Presently there are many organized efforts underway to move workload from the depots to private industry. This is a major concern of CCAD and the STMTF. For example, CCAD's workforce is now under 3,000. It was over 3,200 a year ago (and over 6,000 twelve years ago!) CCAD positions vacated by retirement, are not being filled due to workload decreases. Working to communicate the value of depots as a National Insurance policy, that pays back especially during times of war

Set up a special called meeting of the SMTTF Executive Board on 2 March to meet with Larry Meyers who is visiting Corpus Christi. Meeting was well attended by Executive Committee members including Mayor Guajardo, City Managers Peter Zaroni and Mark MacLaughlin, and Nueces County Chief of Staff Hawkins.

Accepted invitation from Colonel Kyle M. Hogan Commander of the Corpus Christi Army Depot attend a 24 February agreement signing event signing between the Corpus Christi Army Depot and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Del Mar College and the Craft Training Center of the Coastal Bend. The Letter of Agreement between the Corpus Christi Army Depot and three Coastal Bend educational institutions signifies a commitment that will forge a new path for the next generation of skilled artisans and depot leaders.

Actively tracking military related legislation currently in process in the 88th Texas Legislature. Working closely with the City of Corpus Christi, and the Governor's Military support committee in this effort.

Arranged 22 FEB meeting between STMTF Executive Committee Members and USCG Sector Commander, CAPT Hans Govertsen to discuss how to improve military relationships with local educational institutions in the Corpus Christi area. Purpose is to increase awareness of local operations and recruiting efforts.

Arranged logistics to Co-host the Corpus Christi Mayor's Interagency Meeting on 3 March with the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. Provided an overview of the STMTF with Chairman Wilson. Meeting was held at the FCB Community Room and was well attended.

Received information on potential additional Navy ship maintenance work on the Texas Coast and along with Drew Scheberle, of the National Security Innovation Council, sent this information to the Port of Corpus Christi. Link:

[With eyes on more Navy maintenance work, Austal opens California shipyard](#)

Worked with Nueces County administration to secure the 2023 Agreement between the county and STMTF. Completed State ethics paperwork, worked invoice, and signed the agreement for \$40,000 of county support for this year.

Made contact with LTC Stephen Pierce, Commander of the TAMUCC Army ROTC Unit and Professor of Military Science at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. LTC Pierce expressed interest in being of service to the South Texas Military Task Force where I may be helpful. The Cadets of the Senior ROTC program here at TAMUCC, the Islander Battalion, are doing amazing work throughout Corpus Christi. Also, this unit is the only DoD Commissioning source in Corpus Christi.

Followed up on meeting with CAPT's Govertsen and Cintron by connecting USCG with area educational points of contact at Del Mar, TAMUCC, CCISD, and the city. Also, communicated the urgent need for housing single enlisted. Received positive responses from Dan Korus, Del Mar College, Dean of Workforce Programs and Corporate Services; Leanne Libby, Communications Director for CCISD; and Jaime Nodarse Barrera, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Communicated to Congressman Clouds office, CCAD's concern about future workload decisions that might move Victor model work to the Blackhawk OEM, Sikorsky. CCAD Commander stated if this work was removed from CCAD, it would negatively affect 1,000 jobs.

Met with Spohn Shoreline President, P. Craig Desmond, who is interested in serving on the STMTF. Invited him to attend our next quarterly meeting in May.

Met with Matt Garcia, Director of Community Relations, Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend, Texas Oil & Gas Association. Matt is also interested in participating with the STMTF and will be at our May meeting. Matt also serves on the board of the Corpus Christi Boy's and Girl's Club and I put him in touch with CAPT Govertsen who plans to do a Coast Guard Helo landing at the Club in the future.

Composed and sent a statement of urgency to Lary Meyers on the lack of available, safe housing for single military in our area:

“Description of need: On base housing for single military Navy, Army, and Coast Guard personnel is virtually non-existent in the area. On Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, single officer and enlisted housing has been eliminated and demolished due to deterioration and unsafe conditions with no plans of replacement. Current basic housing allowances given to lower grade single military personnel to seek housing outside the base are insufficient to lease safe, clean, apartments near NASCC and Coast Guard Installations. Many single enlisted currently have to “double and triple up” to afford adequate housing outside the gates. Also, many junior enlisted do not have their own personal transportation, which can cause delays in reporting for duty. Finally, area military leaders are concerned that new enlisted member's negative first impressions of inadequate housing and financial hardships will be detrimental to retention and future recruiting.”

Intent is to request a Congressional Study on this situation.

Tracking the status of HB 1433 in the Texas 88th legislature. This bill prohibits future windfarm construction within 65 Nautical Miles of a “Joint-Use” Airport. Will monitor the bills progress and virtually attend the State Affairs Committee hearing on 22 March.

Presented an STMTF overview as guest speaker at the United Corpus Christi Chamber's monthly Buenos Dias Corpus Christi networking breakfast on Tuesday 21 March. Many newcomers to Corpus Christi were present and the presentation was well received.

Sent CCAD representatives newly approved legislative language that increases the ability of Texas Governmental entities (Cities, Counties, and Texas Department of Transportation) to do work on military installations. CCAD has expressed interest and requested POC's for these entities.

Received great news that the City of Corpus Christi, NASCC and CCAD received two of the four DEAAG grants awarded by the State of Texas. Grants awarded included \$175,000 to Corpus Christi Army Depot for acquisition of portable solar powered electric charging stations and \$1,000,000 to Naval Air

Station Corpus Christi to enhance perimeter fencing and gate replacement.
Provided quotes to Al Arreola to be included on a UCCCC Press Release.

Press Release: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-over-2-million-in-grants-to-texas-military-communities>

Sent out notice to STMTF Executive Committee of dates for our trip to DC - week of 22 October, the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday, 23 June, 11:30-12:30, at First Community Bank Board Room and rescheduling of the next "Full Task Force" Quarterly meeting has been rescheduled to 24 August to avoid conflict with State of the City event on the 17th.

Responded to a request from Mayor Guajardo to assist in talking points on our area military for her upcoming State of the City speech.

Provided Leah Olivarri with historical background and overview of the need for a new CNATRA Quarters on NASCC. Talked to Mayor Guajardo with similar talking points in preparation for her meeting with RDML Brophy and his wife on the week of June 12th.

Completed design on a STMTF Challenge Coin with the help of Alan Wilson, Wes Hoskins and Bob Paulison. The new coin which is ordered and will arrive in late July incorporates the STMTF logo and representations of the 5 major military commands in our area. :

SIDE A

SIDE B



*PLEASE REVIEW ALL THE DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS.

COLORS

5 FREE COLORS PER SIDE
 +15¢ PER ADDITIONAL COLOR

SIDE A

- WHITE
- 425
- 534
- 7621

SIDE B

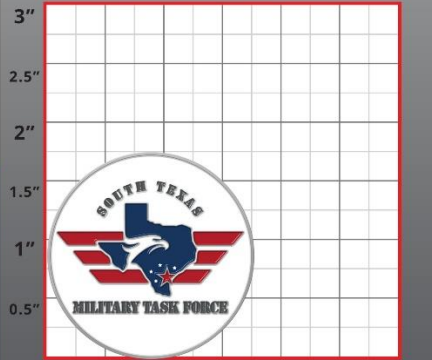
- OFFSET PRINT IMG
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- 534
- 7631

- ANTIQUE SILVER METAL
- ANTIQUE SILVER RECESS

PRODUCT SPECS

PRODUCT TYPE: CHALLENGE COIN
 EDGE TYPE: STANDARD
 PACKAGING: PVC ENVELOPES

SIZE: 1.75" x 1.75" THICKNESS: 3mm



PRINT AT 100% TO VIEW AT SCALE

EXTRAS

ARTIST: ALEXIS

- 3D RELIEF
- DUAL PLATING
- SEQUENTIAL #
- EDGE ENGRAVING
- GLOW-IN-THE-DARK
- GLITTER ENAMEL
- SPINNER
- SILKSCREEN
- ANTIQUE PLATING
- TRANSLUCENT COLOR
- CUSTOM ENGRAVING
- EXTRA COLORS
- CUTOUT
- BOTTLE OPENER
- OFFSET PRINTED IMAGE
- EPOXY

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Received excellent article on the State of Army aviation from Tom Tagliabue and forwarded to STMTF Executive Committee members. Link to article: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/06/08/youre-always-fighting-gravity-the-state-of-army-aviation/>

Contacted Nueces County, NAS Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Office to obtain good POC's for potential future IGSA sources for CCAD. TX Department of Transportation Deputy District Engineer, Mike Walsh and Ivan G. Bolden, Army Partnership, Chief Chairman, Joint Services Partnership Committee, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9, (Installations) both have agreed to meet with CCAD.

Introduced to the local Defense Logistics Agency Commander Cody Autrey and his Deputy, Jeremy Beckwith and have added them to our Area Military Leaders Listing.

Received invitation to the Mayor's 4th of July Big Bang Celebration and forwarded the updates list of Area Military Leaders to the Mayor's Office.

After researching military housing challenges in Texas found an article (link below) about some successes in the Killeen/ Fort Cavazos (formerly Ft Hood) area with the Central Council of Governments. Contacted Keith Sledd, Exec Director of the heart of Texas Military Alliance. Keith Provided some great ideas for our area.

https://www.army.mil/article/255281/fort_hood_joins_with_neighbors_to_discuss_affordable_housing

Attended the monthly Mayor's Interagency meeting on 2 June hosted by the Corpus Christi Black Chamber of Commerce.

Attended the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting on May 25th and provided an update on the STMTF.

Met local Tesla representative Joanne McKinnon and provided her an overview of the STMTF. Tesla is interested in community outreach according to Joanne.

Hosted CCAD and Coast Guard representatives at the annual State of the County event on May 19th

Drafted and delivered letters of support for the two City DEAG applications for NASCC and CCAD. Attended City Council Meeting and spoke in favor of both applications.

Discussed with NASCC potential candidate projects for a future Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program Grant. Potential projects include Project for energy resilience on the County's land just outside the South Gate. EX. Natural Gas Plant or Geothermal; off post Child development center or any project on the shoreline that would help with erosion or storm issues.

Conducting a review of all military related bills passed by the 88th Texas Legislature and their impact on our area military installations.

Provided an STMTF overview at the April Buenos Dias Breakfast in April.

Communicated with Tom McCoullough, REP Cloud's Military Legislative Assistant, to obtain more information on Language proposed by Representative Cloud to draw attention to the housing needs at NASCC was included in the 2024 Subcommittee Mil Con VA appropriations bill and Cloud's proposal to strengthen the protection of flight training (the ACE Act).

Notes from MILITARY TASK FORCE Strategic Planning Session, January 2023

STMTF Mission

The purpose of the Task Force is to preserve, protect, communicate and expand the value of the military facilities in the Coastal Bend Region of Texas.

By Increasing awareness of the military and economic value and impact of these facilities within the regional community,

Acting as a liaison and providing legislative advocacy for these facilities at local, state and federal levels,

Communicating community support of these facilities to their respective military command structures,

And coordinating efforts among public and private sectors to maintain a significant presence of US Departments of Defense and Homeland Security in South Texas.

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS – Characteristics of the STMTF that give it an advantage over others

- Providing connections and introductions between military and community representatives
- Annual Military Appreciation Dove Hunt
- STMTF Quarterly Meetings
- Members also serve on other influential groups (Military Preparedness Commission, Texas Military Values Task Force, Texas Governor’s Committee to Support the Military, Regional Economic Development Commission)
- Supporting DEAAG
- Office calls to military
- Support Veterans Cemetery
- USO support augmentation
- Influential STMTF membership
- Voice in DC
- Helping “getting things done”
- Winging’s (STMTF funds the aviator’s wings)

WEAKNESSES – STMTF characteristics that place at a disadvantage relative to others

- Funding
- Seeking additional financial support (Military Contractors, NEC, HEB, GE, etc)
- Lack of “membership levels”
- Marketing materials (Supporter Appreciation Plaque)
- Low Brand Awareness
- Seek smaller donors (e.g.; \$100 add on to Chamber membership)
- Update promotions
- Engagement of whole Executive Board
- Future of unmanned aircraft and effect on manned training and depot work

OPPORTUNITIES - Elements in the environment the STMTF could exploit to its advantage

- Using local partnerships and resources (e.g.; Wings auditorium refurbishment.
- WW II Heritage City Designation
- STMTF Marketing (Challenge coin, Lapel Pins, Shirts)
- Expand STMTF Awareness in Community
- Large Potential of new STMTF membership
- Updates from Base CO's and Operations
- Coast Guard - increase community connections and awareness
- Visit AMC and AMCOM in Huntsville AL
Connect with TAMUCC (Housing, Military and UAV Programs)
- Army Installation Command in San Antonio
- Army Futures Command in Austin

THREATS – Elements in the environment that could cause trouble for the STMTF

- Lack of Broad Funding Support
- State and Federal actions that have local effects
- Relations with military (if we got “off kilter”) need to continuously work this
- Military Housing decline across the board (BOQ, Enlisted, CNATRA, CO's)
- NASCC Infrastructure decline
- Generational Shift in STMTF (initiate plan for future STMTF members/leaders)

STMTF WORK PLAN

Increase Awareness/Value

- CC Chamber: (include STMTF in marketing to members, promote at chamber events, membership “add on”)
- Seek additional contributions
- Engage other area chambers
- Tours of military facilities
- Outreach
- update/expand information materials (website/Facebook)

Establish/define membership levels

- Use chamber model

Funding/Financial

- Revisit Chamber agreement and relations
- More contributions

Outreach

- Military (Jacksonville, Huntsville, Austin, San Antonio, Coast Guard)
- Engage full Task Force

Unmanned Air Programs

- Learn more (TAMUCC,
- Military Future plans

Legislative

- School District Zoning
- Texas Section 313/ wind farms
- 50/50 rule
- Federal Grants for Military Projects
- TXDOT Intergovernmental Support Agreements
- DEAAG
- 180 day rule

Military Infrastructure needs

- Utilities
- Housing
- Child Care Facility
- North Gate
- Rail access (Port)

STMTF Membership as of July 2023:

NAME	TITLE
Alan Wilson	Chairman
Bob Paulison	Former USCG Sector CC CO, Executive Director Coastal Bend Industry Assoc
Dave Edgecomb	Former NASCC CO
Garry Bradford	Texas Military Preparedness Commissioner, Pres/CEO Unique Employment
Kresten Cook	Executive Director STMTF, Former Deputy to the Commander CCAD
Steve Banta	Exec Director USS Lexington Museum, former CO NASCC
Clark Robertson	Chief Operating Officer, Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Wes Hoskins	President, First Community Bank, Past Chairman STMTF
Paulette Guajardo	Mayor of Corpus Christi
Peter Zanoni	Corpus Christi City Manager
Connie Scott	Nueces County Judge

May Mendoza	Chairman of the Board, UCCCC
Al Arreola Jr	CEO United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
Leah Olivarri	Olivarri and Associates
Al Jones	Former President/CEO American Bank
Dan Korus	Del Mar College
Judge David Krebs	San Patricio County Judge
Gabriel Guerra	President, Kleberg Bank
Natalie Villarreal	Del Mar College
Leanne Libby	Director of Communications, CCISD
Mark Longoria	District Director, REP Michael Cloud
Mary Lupe Arana	President CEO, GFP Group
Roland Hernandez	Superintendent CCISD
Sam Fugate	Mayor of Kingsville
Harris, Scott	CCREDC
Eric Villerreal	Former Chair, UCCCC
Judge James Teal	McMullen County County Judge
Ken Trevino	CEO, Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend
Barbara Canales	Former Nueces County Judge
Todd Hunter	State Representative
Dan Leyendecker	2022 Chairman CCRTA, Ardurra Engineering
John LaRue	Past President/CEO United CC Chamber of Commerce, former Port of CC CEO
Derrick Majchszak	CEO RTA
Joe McComb	Former CC Mayor
Mark McLaughlin	Kingsville City Manager, Former CO NASK
P. Craig Desmond	President, Christus Spohn Hospital
Matt Garcia	Texas Oil and Gas Association
Philip Ramirez	President, Turner Ramirez Architects
Jennifer Armentrout	Sgt Maj USMC (ret)
Travis Patterson	CEO Halo Flight (former Marine MATSG-22)
Mike Rendon	Deputy CEO, CCRTA
Rob McDonald	Executive Director, Corpus Christi MPO

AREA MILITARY LEADERSHIP

Ben Polak	Community Planning Liaison Officer, NASCC
CAPT Mike Albus	Commodore, Training Wing Four NASCC
CAPT Ty Jurica	Commanding Officer, Corpus Christi Naval Air Station
COL Kyle Hogan	Commander, Corpus Christi Army Depot
CAPT Hans Goversen	Commanding Officer, USCG Air Sector Corpus Christi
CAPT Gunning, Jason	Commander, USCG Sector Corpus Christi
CAPT Mike Cintron	USCG Sector Corpus Christi
CAPT Aaron Rybar	Commodore Training Air Wing Two (incomming 2023)
CAPT Ray "Pancho" Barnes	Commodore, Training Wing 2, NASK
Rod Benson	Deputy to the Commander, Corpus Christi Army Depot
David Cirilo	Director, S. Texas Relocatable Over The Horizon Radar Team
RDML Richard T. Brophy	Chief of Naval Air Training
CAPT Eric Bromley	Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Kingsville
COL Jason Tiger	Commanding Officer, Maine Aviation Support Training Group 22

CAPT Jessica Bain
CAPT Stephen Arles
CAPT Jeremy Rifas
LTC Steven Pierce
LTC Tim Owens

Commanding Officer CCNAS Navy Hospital
Deputy Commander CCNAS Navy Hospital
Chief of Staff, CNATRA
TAMUCC ROTC
Commanding Officer USARMY DLA CC

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