



16 January, 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,

Thank you and the Corpus Christi City Council for your continued support to our area military installations and the South Texas Military Task Force. Just as our military and City services are expected to remain fully operational under any situation, we remain engaged as well. This report highlights the work our area's Military Task Force 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. 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,

Kresten Cook,
Executive Director, South Texas Military Task Force



MILITARY TASK FORCE

South Texas Military Task Force Activity Report

July to December 2020

Increased local community awareness of the STMTF with continued communications with area community groups and business segments through presentation of the STMTF “Roadshow” with emphasis on the STMTF mission, our area military operations critical role in providing Military Readiness and the economic impact (financial and jobs) impact these installations in our community. Made virtual and in-person presentations to: Christi Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Nueces County Commissioners Court, Port of Corpus Christi Commissioners, and the Regional Transportation Authority Board.

Researched possibility potential future utilization of DCIP (Defense Critical Infrastructure Program) and applicability of this program with future Navy/Area Community goals.

Acquired recent data on local military installation infrastructure and working to increase Congressional and DoD support to keep our area military facilities from further deterioration, thus maintaining, a fiscally sound national insurance policy for steady state and surge.

Increased the communication to Congressional, State, and area community leaders of CCNAS’s critical role in Navy Air Training and providing Military Readiness.

Supported development of short and long-term Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) possibilities between NASCC and City/County

Increased emphasis on the importance of USCG Sector/Air Station Corpus Christi in ensuring a safe, prosperous South Texas through its mission of providing maritime safety and border security.

Developing plan to improve the partnership between the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and the Port of Corpus Christi as a global intermodal surface connector.

Improved national/state support encouraging local educational institutions, at all levels, to partner with and target recruits to fill critical civilian skills needed by area military installations.

STMTF Executive Director continued to work as an appointee to the Texas Governor's Committee to Support the Military recommending legislation to support military installations and military families in Texas. This Committee formed in 2019, continues to work on five charges from Governor:

- Study and make recommendations on how best to maintain and enhance military value at existing military installations in Texas;
- Study and make recommendations on how best to make Texas a more attractive destination for additional military missions;
- Collaborate with local governments and chambers of commerce to explore surrounding civilian infrastructure and identify competing and complementary needs between private development, the rights of private landowners, and military necessities;
- Examine the 2005 criteria used by the Base Realignment and Closure (“BRAC”) Commission and identify strategies to avoid future base closures; and
- Coordinate with the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and Texas Military Values

Worked closely with the South Texas USO and its mission of providing support to area military and their families.

Organized and Convened South Texas Military Task Force Meetings:

- Executive Committee Meetings: 31 July, 28 August, 25 September, 30 October
- South Texas Military Task Force: 12 August, 18 November

Wrote letters of support for Nueces County’s and City of Corpus Christi’s (City) applications for a Texas Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) to improve critical infrastructure at the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC).

Discussed upcoming release of revised Navy Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) report and its implications with NASCC rep Ben Polak and Commissioner Bradford. Attended meeting of STMTF and City representatives regarding next steps re: Navy Region Southwest Commander’s letter to Gov Abbott regarding potential future legislation to avoid future land development incompatible with Navy training flight paths.

Reviewed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) received from Judge Canales for proposed construction and operation of a new Air and Marine Operations (AMO) marine facility for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Port Aransas, Texas.

Prepared/delivered letter to Governor Abbott supporting City of Corpus Christi's application for a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) to replace deteriorating 78 year-old high pressure natural gas supply lines aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC).

Continued to garner support for a local project to seek local funding to construct new quarters for the Chief of Naval Air Training - the highest ranking military officer in South Texas. The previous CNATRA quarters (built in the 1940's) were determined "uninhabitable" and beyond economical repair due to deterioration unsafe conditions.

Represented the STMTF at Corpus Christi Mayor's Interagency meetings.

Maintained regular communications with area Military leaders to check on their status and how the STMTF can provide support.

Continued to invest a significant portion of the STMTF budget towards lobbying efforts in Washington with emphasis on 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and 2021 Defense Appropriations efforts. Cong. Cloud committed to stay in close touch with Cong. Cuellar who serves on the Appropriations Committee and to coordinate military support with Senators Cornyn and Cruz.

Worked with Sean Strawbridge, CEO, Port of Corpus Christi on strategies to increase military operations at the Port. Arranged for Sean to make a presentation to the STMTF membership.

Welcomed RDML Westendorff, new Chief of Naval Air Training, CNATRA, and provided him an overview of the STMTF along with open invitations to all STMTF meetings.

Welcomed two new STMTF supporting donors: GFP Group and Camacho Demolition

Provided supporting economic impact data for STMTF letter to Honorable Tom Craddick Chairman, Land and Resource Management Committee Texas House of Representatives requesting no further restrictions on municipalities' abilities to utilize annexation and eminent domain. These restrictions could have dire impacts on the future of military activities in Texas.

Assisted with advocacy and lobbying support to gain approval of City of Corpus Christi's agreement for a land exchange with the US Navy to protect Navy air training fields from incompatible development and protect both area military missions and public safety.

Reviewed the DRAFT National Defense Authorization ACT (NDAA) as it is being worked in committee. Specifically looking into the possibility of a South Texas DCIP (Defense Critical Infrastructure Grant).

Assisted CCISD with military contacts list in preparation for a Military Community Summit Focus Group to be held on 10 December.

Participated in Virtual meeting with Mayor/School Districts/Military Task Force/UCCCC on recent Letter from RDML Mayes to Governor Abbott requesting possible changes in Texas law

Communicating with NASCC to determine impact of new proposed wind farm project in Mathis, Texas. DoD letter reports no adverse impact to military operations.

Researching past year's Defense contracts awarded for work in South Texas. Link for a search of Corpus Christi DoD contracts in 2020: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Contracts/StartDate/2020-01-01/?Search=corpus+christi>

Made contact with John Brier, who is working with Nueces County on economic development related to NASCC

Participated in Military Roundtable interviews for 2020 Regional Economic Development Corporation's Targeted Industry Survey.