

22, July 2020

The Honorable Joe McComb  
Mayor of Corpus Christi  
P.O.Box 9277  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469

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

Mayor McComb,

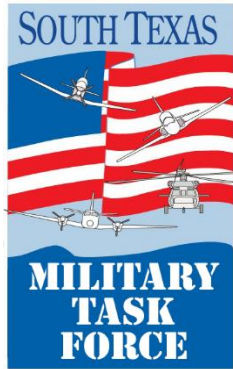
Thank you and the City of Corpus Christi for your continued support to the South Texas Military Task Force. Just as our Military and city services are expected to remain fully operational under any situation, we remain engaged as well. This report highlights the work our area's Military Task Force has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

Alan Wilson  
Chairman, South Texas Military Task Force

Kresten Cook  
Executive Director, South Texas Military Task Force

Enclosures: Semi-annual Report, STMTF Briefing, STMTF Budget, Invoice



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

**January to June 2020**

Convened a successful strategic planning session in January. Strategies were developed to expand Military Task Force communications and represent a larger segment of area military operations. These additional operations include US Coast Guard - Corpus Christi Sector, Marine Aviation Support Group 22, Training Wing Four, and Military Operations at the Port of Corpus Christi.

Expanded communications with area community groups and business segments through development and distribution of a STMTF "Roadshow" presentation (attached) to increase Congressional, State, and local community awareness of area military operations critical role in providing Military Readiness and the economic impact of these installations in our community.

Received the Texas Governor's latest economic Impact data on Military Installations in Texas. Our area's two largest military operations within Corpus Christi (CCAD and NASCC) contributed \$4.5 billion dollars in goods and services in 2019. CCAD and NASCC currently employ 8,440 direct and affect over 26,000 areas jobs indirectly.

Worked to increase Congressional support for modernizing Army depot infrastructure and equipment, a fiscally sound national insurance policy for steady state and surge.

Increased the Congressional, State, and Area Community communication of CCNAS's critical role in Navy Air Training and providing Military Readiness.

Attended the Texas Military Summit, Texas Military Preparedness Commission Meeting, and the Texas Governor's Committee to Support the Military, Austin, Texas 14-15 JAN 2020

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

At the request of Congressman Filemon Vela, arranged and coordinated a meeting with Rep Vela and local leaders on 6 JAN 2020

Worked with the Texas Governor's Military Support Committee for additional 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.

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.

Worked 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.

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

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.

Gained awareness of recent Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) acknowledgement of future risk to combat readiness if shore infrastructure funds continue to be diverted to immediate operational readiness priorities. Corpus Christi Naval Air station is a critical link to ensuring the Navy has mission ready pilots

STMTF Executive Director continued to work as a member of 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.

Attended the Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation 2020 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Gained knowledge how defense communities forge better partnerships with their military installations, network and learn from fellow military/community leaders.

Wrote letter of support for City of Corpus Christi's (City) application for a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program to improve security and flight line safety at the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC).

Supported 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.

Completed draft commendations, at the request of the City, for all six departing area military commanders. Provided Changes of Command information to the Port, City, and County, and Rep. Cloud's office.

Developed and Delivered a Press Release on our Area's Military Leaders

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

Met with the Honorable Lucien Niemeyer, Navy Assistant Secretary for Installations, Energy, and Environment (discussed Navy Installation needs at NASCC and NASK as well as Intergovernmental Support Agreements in work)

Met with Tommy Kurtz, Regional Economic Development Corporation and Mark Wagner, Deputy to the Commander, Corpus Christi Army Depot, on potential new area aviation repair facilities and impact on CCAD and 50/50 law.

Provided support to Tammy Embry, City of Corpus Christi, with a draft press release announcing the recently awarded Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) award.

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

Wrote a letter of support from the STMTF for expediting COVID-19 Testing equipment to our community.

Worked with STMTF's Washington lobbyist, Larry Meyers, in development of the 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.

As member of the Governor's Military Support Committee, STMTF Executive Director, Kresten Cook prepared recommendations in support of the committee's 3 fold charter: 1) Enhance the military value of current military installations in Texas, 2) Attract future military missions to our state, and 3) Build partnerships between our military installations and their surrounding communities.

Communicated with LTG (ret.) Larry Wysch, former Army Material Command Deputy Commanding General. LTG Wysch, who has connections with Corpus Christ (2018 Distinguished Alumnus TAMUCC and wife Denise, is from Corpus Christi) offered to come to Corpus Christi as a Salute to the Military speaker.

Participated in Texas General Land Office Study focused on a post-Harvey and current pandemic situation and economic development for nine counties in South Texas, including Nueces

Wrote letter of support for Nueces County's application for a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program to purchase a 50 acre navigation easement in the Clear Zone for compatible use at Naval Outlying Field Cabaniss for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC).

Assisted with logistics and hosting of area senior military Commanders and their spouses to a “Texas style” quail hunt in Hebronville, Texas

Visited Marine Aviation Training Support Group-22 (MATSG-22) Headquarters with Mayor McComb to present City Proclamation to departing Commander, COL Bret H. “Crittter” Ritterby. Met COL William P. Donnelly, the new MATSG-22 Commander.

Developed, and delivered a letter of support for USO South Texas’ application for City Type B Funding.

Visited Marine Aviation Training Support Group-22 (MATSG-22) Headquarters with Mayor McComb to present City Proclamation to departing Commander, COL Bret H. “Crittter” Ritterby. Met COL William P. Donnelly, the new MATSG-22 Commander.

Received notice from the Texas Governor’s office that the Texas Education Agency has created a Military Student Identifier resource for school year 2020-2021 to assist with increasing the identification of military connected students. Bottom line, school districts get some extra funding for having students from active military families. STMTF Communicated this new resource to area Districts and charter schools. .