

**Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Advisory Board Meeting
Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Building**

March 15, 2023

Cameron Bowsky, TCPI consultant, welcomed attendees. Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director provided opening comments. Advisory Board introductions provided.

The agenda was overviewed. In respect to the ADC National Summit Recap, current community partnership priorities, military installation resilience review, defense community infrastructure program, and “Big 3” Work Group updates.

Program Updates

Association of Defense Community National Summit Recap

- Cameron Bowsky presented highlights from the event in Washington D.C., but include FY24 Presidential budget takeaways, DOD climate resilience initiatives, recruitment efforts, and ongoing federal activities supporting quality of life initiatives related to childcare, education, employment, and affordable housing. He also covered the major points from the keynote speaker, Secretary of the Army Wormuth, including the impact of post 9/11 security implementation on the “civilian-military divide” (i.e. how American perceive the Armed Forces), and the impact that has on recruiting.

Current Community Partnership Efforts

- Mr. Dale Marks, Vice Director of the 96th Test Wing, presented on multiple topics outlined below:
 - We need to take a fresh look at the problems and challenges facing both the installation and the defense community.
 - Encroachment mitigation remains significantly important to protect mission and training capabilities.
 - The base may need to shift to using the land-based range more than usual based on operational requirements. If so, temporary closures of highways 85 and 285 may increase.
 - Based on mission growth projections, we expect upwards of 4000 new jobs in the next four years.
 - It’s likely that a squadron of F-22s may relocate to Langley in calendar year 2023, to be replaced with a third squadron of F-35s here locally.
 - The installation is running short on classified administrative and operational space.
 - Regarding the ability to recruit and retain DOD civilians, often industry outpaces the government for “cash-in-hand” benefits, but this is counter-balanced by job stability and the Office of Personnel Management’s locality rate increases.
 - Crestview is growing rapidly, naturally increased traffic and exacerbating traffic concerns.
 - We’re making progress on the Crestview complex which, as conceptualized, includes a 10,000 square foot medical facility and childcare facilities in Crestview. Will open temporary facilities early. The goal is to move additional services to where 20% of the base’s families live.
 - Requests help in recruiting employees for childcare centers (CDC). Noted that those who work in the CDC have their first child free and, based on recent changes, also receive a 25% discount on every subsequent child enrolled.
 - The base is taking a deliberate and comprehensive look at what it calls “orphan parcels,” which are essentially areas that are under the base’s jurisdiction but non-

contiguous with the Eglin reservation. We're first seeking feedback from the tenants to ensure we don't impact any operational mission, then hope to have an Industry Day with the community to solicit potential uses that meet community needs.

Defense Community Infrastructure Program

- Steve Loken presented details on the above federal program managed by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, highlighting the following:
 - We need to collectively think about projects that we want to submit for DCIP *now* so that we are ready, and competitive, when submissions are actually due.
 - Projects can now be executed on easements or Federal land under an enhanced use lease.
 - Projects can also include infrastructure enhancements to prepare land for future, above ground development.

Emerald Coast Regional Council

- Eric Christianson introduced project managers from Jacobs supporting the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR). He informed the group that the kick-off for this activity is planned for April 26 and will likely be hosted in the Niceville area due to its centrality in the region.
- Cameron Bowsky outlined the current status and next steps of a Matrix-led effort to develop intergovernmental support agreements (IGSAs) at all six Air Force and Navy installations in northwest Florida.

Work Group Stand Down Process Overview

- Nathan Sparks overviewed the recently established process for standing down TCPI Work Groups. In short, the three co-chairs must be in agreement and receive support from the LOE Champion that their WG falls under. Then, the TCPI Advisory Board must approve.

Line of Effort Updates

While Work Group updates for this meeting were focused on the “big three” items of Housing, Childcare and Traffic/Road Capacity, other Work Groups with substantive updates to share – or those in need of guidance from the Advisory Board were encouraged to do so.

Quality of Life; Steve Loken for Colonel Richards, 1 SOMSG/CC

Housing

- Randall Rowland informed the group that Eglin's recently completed Housing Requirements and Market Analysis (HRMA) report a 1,212-housing deficit (i.e. demand exceeds availability). There is currently a four-month waitlist for on-base housing.
- Nathan Sparks discussed that a recently distributed Okaloosa County RFP, which received one bidder, is for a county-wide housing study.

Childcare

- Brian Wiggins briefed the following highlights on childcare availability improvement efforts:
 - The Army recently hired an outreach coordinator.
 - Eglin is nearing 100% design on a new CDC which will provide approximately 120 slots for care once constructed.
 - Reiterated Mr. Dale Marks comment concerning free childcare for the first child, and 25% discount for every subsequent child, for parents who work in the CDC.
 - Planning job fair at Hurlburt Field on April 26th.
 - Waitlist continues to be a challenge.

- University of West Florida Small Business Office includes a four-month training program for starting a childcare business in your own home. Currently have 23 prospects in Cohort #1.
- While Higher Ground Education lost their original developer for the two childcare facilities targeted for Crestview and Navarre, a new developer has emerged and discussions are progressing.
- Other members provided inputs, as listed:
 - Tim Bolduc (Crestview City Manager) updated the group on progress on conversion of existing structures, including one church, into childcare facilities.
 - An audience member noted that Florida House Bill 1155 proposed promising improvements to provisional childcare licensing.
 - Mr. Dale Marks noted that one item of particular interest to the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force is to pin down the total demand. To accomplish this, they're requesting registrations on a yet-to-be-built part of the MilitaryChildCare.com website, separate and independent of applications for care at the installation level.
 - Gabe Laramie noted that the base is always looking for FCC (family childcare) providers, specifically targeting the north area of the installation. This program pays \$300/child/week with the maximum children served is six in a single home.

Infrastructure; Colonel Hammill, 96 CEG/CC

Traffic/Road Capacity

- While WG Co-Chairs were not present, Jason Autrey, Okaloosa County Public Works Director provided bullets speaking to updates on three main projects - SW Crestview Bypass (3-3.5 years until completion including new interchange), West 98 Collector Road (Okaloosa County moving forward with survey/design services for construction drawings) and Eglin West Area Expansion / SR 85 Realignment (Eglin and Okaloosa County have engaged a consultant to consider access configurations and future realignments).

Firing Range

- Maj Joseph Cortez reported that the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office Crestview Training Facility / Firing Range meets all safety and operational requirements for use by Eglin's security forces for training. As a result, they are adding the Okaloosa Training Complex to the existing memorandum of agreement between security forces and local law enforcement.
- Nathan Sparks suggested that, provided timing works with the required approvals, the April 26th Eglin-Hurlburt Community Partnership Program (CPP) meeting could be an ideal time to hold a public MOA signing and bring some deserved visibility to this partnership success.

Going Forward/Closing Comments

Meeting Schedule

- Eglin-Hurlburt CPP Meeting scheduled for April 26, advance notice will be sent by Eglin.
- Next TCPI Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for June 28th.

Meeting adjourned.