



University Center
1201 Technology Dr, Aberdeen, MD 21001
February 14, 2018
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Summary Notes

- I. **Welcome & Introduction s** Paul Thompson, Chair

- II. **Director's Report** Len Parrish, Director, OCED
 - Mr. Parrish explained County Executive Glassman's executive order from February 1, 2018, that consolidated two county departments to create the Harford County Office of Community and Economic Development. The new office will improve efficiencies and strengthen opportunities for business development and community stability
 - He is pleased that Karen Holt will be the Federal Installation Officer and continue to be a liaison for Harford County and APG
 - More information will be forthcoming as the sixty day approval period passes

- III. **Presentation**
Major General Randy Taylor , Commanding General, Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) & Senior Commander, Aberdeen Proving Ground

MG Taylor offered an introduction to Aberdeen Proving Ground and their mission. APG is a unique installation that has six Centers of Excellence inside the gates. 1. Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) 2. Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) 3. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) 4. Public Health 5. Edgewood Chemical Biological Command (ECBC) 6. Security Investigations Three of the COE are led by two-star Generals (Taylor, Wins and Charlton) and another COE is led by a one-star General (Bonner). There are 28,000 people that live, work or retire at APG. Of the professionals working at APG, 4,000 have post-graduate degrees. APG boasts 144 miles of shoreline, 400 bald eagles, and there is no other Army installation that has the environment that APG enjoys.

MG Taylor is excited to visit with leaders of the community and share with them. He points to the fact that as APG grows, so does the mission. In 2017, after the hiring freeze lifted, 933 people were hired and APG continues to hire. There was a \$6.5 billion economic impact from APG with \$3.4 billion coming from wages. \$12 billion in contracts have been awarded. APG is committed to helping those awards stay in local hands. MG Taylor spoke about possible missed contract opportunities and the attractiveness of hiring locally and looking for talent in our own community. APG will open their gates and invites the public to a Discovery Week in April. There will be extensive information available in reference to

contract opportunities. As APG grows, space restrictions will cause contractors to find space outside of the gates.

Working within the community has been important to the commander. He cited the Opioid Summit at APG South where they are turning the update into action in the community. Also, APG is working with the Maryland Legislature for Regional Additive Manufacturing Program (RAMP MD) and the potential use has created momentum in the area.

When asked about BRAC readiness, MG Taylor pointed to the infrastructure already in place as a definite plus. There was discussion about a new four-star command (Army Futures/Modernization Command) being located outside of a fort/installation near a city. Boston and Raleigh are current contenders for this initiative. There is a possibility that one of the COE, possibly RDECOM, could be a part of this newly proposed command. When the question was asked about coordinating efforts to build relationships between higher education, and APG, MG Taylor offered his willingness to discuss this personally, utilizing Rick Scavetta as a point of contact. There are definite ways of building relationships with the community and he pointed out the testing of autonomous vehicles by private contractors at APG as an example.

His closing remarks can be summed up in one word: readiness. Aberdeen Proving Ground is always ready. MG Taylor reminded the group that there are 187,000 soldiers serving in 140 countries and we are a nation that is still at war and APG is vigilant and ready to respond. APG thanks the community for their continued support.

Tom Albro, President of the Army Alliance, Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton

Mr. Albro gave a detailed overview of the Army Alliance and specifically how it serves APG and the community. The AA serves to preserve APG as a national asset with its six Centers of Excellence, serves as an advocate for APG, works with educators and community leaders, and is positioning the area for the next BRAC. Funding is directly through Harford and Cecil counties, Commerce, Municipalities, corporate, and individual sponsorships.

The Army Alliance is a 501 (c(4)) corporation which can lobby and has quite an impact at the state and federal Level. On the state level, they have worked at expanding APG visibility. In 2018, APG was the recipient of the Great American Defense Community Award. The AA has been studying retiree benefits to include increasing tax exemptions to encourage skilled workforce to stay in the local area. Collaboration with the Harford County Office of Community and Economic Development and APG has led to an increase in transit addressing transportation needs in the community. Also, the implementation of the Joint Land Use is preparing the area for growth.

Federally, the Army Alliance has continued to work to clean-up the Edgewood area contaminated buildings with \$507 million in work completed. This falls in line with the environmentally conscientious attitude that APG embraces. Improvements for APG workforce are being reviewed. Measures to shorten

onboarding, evaluating the USAJOBS website, and expanding direct hires are a few ways AA is working to help job seekers and APG.

IV. **Municipal Updates**

City of Aberdeen

Phyllis Grover

- Multiple ribbon cuttings to include Pivot Physical Therapy, Hampton Inn and NTB
- HSG has signed a management agreement for Ripken Stadium
- In coordination with APG, a technology job fair will be held in April
- Thanks to Len Parrish who was able to help the city with a few hurdles they faced

City of Havre de Grace

Erika Quesenbery Sturgill

- HDG business park is 100% occupied
- Working on demo for making properties more marketable
- Finalizing leases for 6 HUB zone businesses
- Funding has been secured to purchase the Colored High School on Alliance Street
- There is an uptick in weddings, 384 currently booked
- First Fridays begin in April, and May 1 a new dinner boat launches

Town of Bel Air

Angela Robertson

- Ribbon Cuttings from Poke Bowl, Off the Chain, and Young Chef's Academy
- The Armory Marketplace construction is underway

Chamber of Commerce

Angela Rose

- Harford Has It continues to encourage you to Buy In Harford
- Visit Harford will host the Bassmaster Elite Series fishing tournament in July

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Rick Scavetta

- APG has changed the street names. Check the address before you send mail or visit.
- Any questions for Maj. Gen. Taylor, please call or email Rick to coordinate

V. **Committee Updates**

EDAB Chairs

VI. **Good of the Cause**

- Karen Holt shared that the study by the National Council for Home Safety and Security listed Aberdeen as #4, Havre de Grace as #5, and Bel Air as #8 on the top 20 List of Safest Cities in Maryland
- Harford County Treasurer, Robert Sandlass, shared that the county sold bonds at a great rate for 20-year bond
- Jake Adler shared that the Small Edgewood Area Study has received great community input

VII. **Adjournment**

Dates to Know & Go

- 2.21 APG Community Leadership Social
- 2.21 Harford County Small Business Financial Seminar: Human Resource Essentials, 6:00 -- 8:00pm, The Groundfloor
- 3.12 Senator, Chris Van Hollen Speaking @ Army Alliance Luncheon, 11:30am -1:30pm Top of the Bay, APG
- 3.21 Harford County Small Business Seminar: Technology and Your Business, 6:00 -- 8:00pm, The Groundfloor
- 4.3 Sweets on the Streets, 10:00am - 3:00pm, Bel Air
- 4.4 Rockfield Manor Bridal Showcase, 12:00pm - 4:00pm, Bel Air
- 4.4 Chocolate, Brew and Wine Tour, 1:00 - 7:00pm, Bel Air
- 4.17 -- 4.21 APG Discovery Week Advanced Planning Briefing to Industry (APBI), Myer Auditorium, Building 6000, APG North, MD
- 5.1 Dinner Cruise launches in Havre de Grace
- 5.2 Harford County Lender's Lounge, 7:30am-1:00pm, Towson University, Northeastern Maryland, 510 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, MD 21015