



UDA Board Meeting – October 19, 2009

The Utah Defense Alliance Board met on Monday, October 19, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. at the Weber Basin Water District Headquarters, Layton, Utah. The meeting was conducted by President Peter Jenks. On roll call, the following were found to be present and excused:

Present

Peter Jenks
Rick Mayfield
Ron Kusina
Steve Rush
Ken Warnick
Jerry Stevenson
Vickie McCall
Gary Harter
Pat Condon
Louenda Downs
Don Wood
Steve Curtis

Scott Waterfall
Wilf Sommerkorn
Kent Sulser
John Clay
Mart Bushnell
Dave Nydam
John Matthews
Ivan Flint
Collette Mercier

Brad Dee
Jan Zogmaister
Colleen Johnson
Lane Beattie
Steve Petersen
Ann Millner
Mike Bouwhuis
Charlie Precourt

Excused

Tage Flint
Sheldon Killpack

Staff

Ron Richins
John Peterson
Beverley Jacobs

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Louenda Downs made a motion to approve the August 17, 2009, UDA Board Meeting minutes. Mayor Steve Curtis seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote to accept the minutes as presented.

Washington D. C. Trip Report/Discussion

It was reported that members of the Executive Committee had visited Washington D.C. There the group was briefed on the CAF restructure plan and the JSF bed down. Charlie Lyons from the 388th had hosted a luncheon for the group.

The group visited Langley Air Force Base with Congressman Bishop, Senator Bennett and members of their staff as well as a member of Congressman Chafetz's staff. At Langley they were briefed on the Combat Air Force restructuring, the bed down, UTTR and other interactions. Although the ACC Commander was unable to meet with the group, Senator Bennett, Congressman Bishop and Pat Condon were able to speak with him for a few minutes.

Overall, the group felt there was good interaction, and UDA was able to deliver their message. Although all information sought was not obtained, they were briefed on some valuable issues.

Those who attended gave their perspectives and insights from the visit. Below are items they presented:

- The Total Force Integration (TFI) is saying that two (2) squadrons are workable, but others are saying three (3) are needed. The Pentagon promised to send a white paper clarifying the issue and how two (2) squadrons can work. Peter will follow up on obtaining the information. If there is a change in the decision to allow Hill three (3) squadrons, that decision will have to be made at the Chief's level or as a Congressional action. However, the Chief is not going to change his mind and all indications are that Hill will be reduced to two (2) squadrons. Hill can be considered for three (3) squadrons in JSF basing as the infrastructure will still be in place to support it.

Pat and Vickie had been scheduled for an appointment with former Secretary of the Air Force Mike Wynn, but he was unable to make it, so they met with Mike Dunn, the President of the Air Force Association. According to him, the two (2) squadron scenario, which is currently in practice at Langley, is not working. The concern is deployment and leaving enough aircraft for the Air National Guard.

- The meeting with Kathleen Ferguson, regarding the F-35 basing, was a very informative meeting. Kathleen was very open and there was good exchange and discussion. Kathleen recognized the value and validity of Hill Air Force Base. Over the years, Utah's Congressional Delegation has worked closely with her office helping them to see Hill's value. Kathleen's group will be giving input, but the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff will be making the final decisions.

- The meeting with General Cleary and the entire Battle Staff, regarding the risks of the CAF draw down and the capping of the F-22, was open and frank. General Cleary indicated he couldn't imagine the F-35 mission without Hill.

- General Fraser showed appreciation for Utah's Congressional support, but he made no commitments. He is aware of the commitment and support for Hill Air Force Base.

- During the visit, the Air Force found that UDA is not your typical group. UDA does its homework, knows the details, understands the background and knows what questions to ask.

- There is little doubt that Hill Air Force Base will be on the list for the F-35 basing, but we should not be complacent as there are a number of other things in the mix that could change. There is a push for a new bomber and, with only one funding source; it is unknown how that may affect the F-35 production. The general consensus was that decisions are not being made based on a needs assessment or on the mission of our National Defense, but rather on budget numbers.

The UDA trip to Washington was very timely especially with the pressing need to be proactive. The JSF basing short list was scheduled to be announced on October 19th, but the date was pushed back to October 23.

There are potentially two ways the Bases are being considered for basing JSF. The first is as a training base and the second is as an operational base. From what has been understood, each Base only falls into one category; not both.

It was mentioned that no one is sure what will be in the QDR, but it was felt that the QDR will probably validate the decisions that have already been made.

After making the short list, the first step will be an environmental analysis. As part of this, there will be public scoping meetings. It was suggested that the Mayors and County Commissioners be informed about the importance and impact of these meetings. It is imperative that the Air Force see that the community shows a strong, united front supporting the Base.

Several ideas were discussed, and a decision was made that a meeting would be scheduled. It was suggested that the meeting be held on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Layton City Municipal Office break room. Since this is an information meeting, it will not be considered a public meeting under the Open Meeting Law. Steve Rush volunteered to spearhead and organize the project. It was suggested that Peter Jenks and Pat Condon represent UDA.

Steve Rush will send e-mails and personal phone calls to those that will be invited.

Pat Condon will craft the message and will send it out for review. Caution needs to be taken to ensure no misinformation or undue panic is injected, but the community needs to be aware that we cannot be complacent. The purpose of this meeting is to update elected officials so they are prepared to answer questions and to encourage community support. Everyone must remember that after the study has been completed it may still take several years before a final decision is made.

It was suggested that a press release be prepared to help obtain media support. We do not want to have bad media as has happened elsewhere.

Peter will contact Kathleen Ferguson to obtain any solid procedural information she can provide.

Letters of appreciation will be sent to the Air Force thanking them for meeting with the Delegation. Peter will obtain a list of addresses from the liaison.

Ivan Flint informed the group that Gil Barley, one of the original UDA members had passed away. He reminded the group that there is a lot of work ahead, but look at how UDA has grown because of the good people.

Strategic Plan

Since revision of the Strategic Plan has been on the agenda for over a year, and in view of the upcoming issues, it was suggested that there be a serious review of the current Strategic Plan. It was decided that the Strategic Plan would be the first item on the November agenda.

Other Business

- During the audit, it was recommended that funds be diversified. To accommodate the recommendation, it was proposed that a money market account be opened at the Bank of Utah.

Ken Warnick made a motion that a money market fund be opened to diversify UDA funds. John Matthews seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote to open a money market account.

- In the December UDA Meeting, John Matthews will make a National Guard presentation.

Next Meeting

The Annual UDA Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. The regular Board meeting will immediately follow.

Mayor Steve Curtis made a motion to adjourn. Gary Harter seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 a.m.