**Minutes of the Utah Defense Alliance Board Meeting**

**November 15, 2017, 8:00am to 9:30am**

**Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base**

**Welcome Board Members and Guests:** Steve Rush welcomed the board members as well as guests Sheryl Cox, Chairman of the Top of Utah Military Affairs Executive Committee and Colonel Heath Collins, System Program Manager for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent Program, to the meeting. Steve also introduced new board member, Mr. Jim Taggart, as this was Jim’s first meeting.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes for the Board Meeting held on Aug 24, 2017:** Motion to approve: Pat Condon, 2nd Weston Saunders. The vote was unanimous.

**151st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Mission Brief:** Brigadier General Chris Burkle introduced the 151st ARW Commander, Colonel Ryan Ogan, who provided an overview of the mission of his organization. The 151st flies the KC-135R aircraft and performs a variety of other important Department of Defense missions.

**Ground Base Strategic Deterrent Program Brief:** Colonel Heath Collins, Systems Program Manager for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent Program (GBSD), provided an overview of

his program. He provided an overview of the US Nuclear Triad and the important role intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) play in the nation’s defense before providing an excellent presentation on the GBSD program. GBSD is being managed out of Hill AFB and will replace the Minuteman III ICBM. This is one of the Department of Defense’s biggest programs and it will bring significant growth in technical jobs to the area over the next 20 years. Col Collins responded to a number of questions from the Board, many of which centered on his ability to hire sufficient personnel to accommodate the growth in his program. He acknowledged that hiring was a challenge due to a number of factors – one of which was the fact that there is no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for government employees in Utah. The Board agreed to look into any actions we might take to hep initiate a review of the need for a government employee COLA in Utah.

**UDA Website Demonstration:** Brittney Bateman provided a tutorial on the new UDA website, to include a detailed description of the “Member Only” section of the site and the travel forms contained therein. Pat Condon questioned why we were automating the forms and it was explained that the automated forms would hopefully make it easier for travelers, approval authorities and payment activities. We will track use of the new automated travel forms to ensure they are in fact an improvement on the current manual system. Weston Saunders asked if the site was secure and Brittney will work with the site developer to ensure it is.

**2018 UDA Board Meeting Schedule:** The Board approved the proposed 2018 meeting schedule as follows: Feb 21, May 16 (annual meeting), Aug 15, and Nov 14. Meetings will normally be held at the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District Board Room from 7:30am until 9:00am with the exception that we will plan to hold one meeting at an off-site location with the site to be determined next year. Motion to approve: Mike Bouwhuis, 2nd Randy Tymofichuk. The vote was unanimous.

**Roosevelt Group Visit to Utah:** Kevin Sullivan provided a recap of the Roosevelt Group visit to the state from November 5-9. While here they visited Dugway Proving Ground, National Guard Headquarters, and Hill AFB and had numerous meetings with many senior military leaders. They also met with key players in the enhanced use lease development at Hill AFB. We took a number of action items as a result of the visit, which are currently being compiled and assigned for action.

**Selection of New UDA Secretary:** The Board was advised that after many years of great service, Detlef Galke had stepped down as our Secretary and that we were looking for volunteers to fill that position, which includes a seat on our Executive Committee. Board members interested in filling that job were asked to contact Kevin Sullivan and/or Tage Flint for consideration.

**Other Business:** Kevin Sullivan updated the Board on an item from the last meeting regarding proposed legislation introduced by Senator John McCain for another round of base closures. That legislation was not included in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act. Kevin also advised the Board that a former Hill AFB senior leader, Major General (retired) Bob McMahon, had been nominated by the Trump administration as the next Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness. He has already completed his written and oral testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee and is awaiting confirmation by the full Senate.

Gary Harter briefed the Board on a meeting between Governor Herbert and the AF Chief of Staff. Gary indicated the meeting went very well and that the Governor outlined Utah’s history as a very military friendly state, expressed the fact that the Utah Air National Guard had the ability to accommodate additional KC-135R aircraft if needed, and invited the Chief to visit Utah.

Following the meeting, a number of Board members had the opportunity to fly on a KC-135R and observe refueling operations involving F-35 fighter aircraft from Hill AFB. It was a great opportunity for members to get a closer look at one of the state’s important military missions. The UDA Board greatly appreciates the Utah Air National Guard and the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings for providing this unique opportunity.

**Upcoming Events of Interest:**

Jan 31, 2018, UDA Legislative Lunch

Feb 21, 2018, UDA Board Meeting

May 16, 2018, UDA Annual Board Meeting

Aug 15, 2018, UDA Board Meeting

Nov 14, 2018, UDA Board Meeting

**Those Attending:**  Ted Frederick, Rick Hartle, Randy Tymofichuk, Weston Saunders, Hugo Horstman, Brian Garrett, Bob Stevenson, Steve Rush, Gary Harter, Steve Hiatt, Vince Liddiard, Brian Tarbet, Vickie McCall, Pat Condon, Detlef Galke, Jim Taggart, Kerry Gibson, Mike Jensen, Kevin Sullivan, Representative Paul Ray, Sheryl Cox, Ryan Wilcox, Barry McLerran, Brigadier General Chris Burkle, Colonel Heath Collins, Colonel Tyler Smith.