

State Officials *MO*bilize the Hawthorn Foundation to Protect Missouri Military Economic Activity

Here in Missouri, the Department of Defense (DoD) footprint plays an integral, expansive role in the state's economy and the lives of so many of our patriotic citizens. In response to the wave of military spending reductions and the Defense Department's intent to seek authorization for another round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Governor Jay Nixon *MO*bilized the Hawthorn Foundation to mitigate these reductions and prepare for the tough challenges that lay ahead. The Hawthorne Foundation has commissioned a Missouri and Washington, DC-based team of defense and political experts lead by Kit Bond Strategies (KBS) to help defend and enhance Missouri's critical military footprint.



(l-r): Mike Dunbar, Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission; U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler; Mike DuBois, Director Kit Bond Strategies

To underscore the importance of the DoD in Missouri, the Hawthorn Foundation commissioned an economic impact study examining the DoD's contributions to Missouri's economy. According to the study that was completed by Development Strategies and Kit Bond Strategies, the total economic output of Department of Defense contract spending averaged \$33.2 billion and supported approximately 162,000 direct and indirect jobs in Missouri. The Missouri National Guard, Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base combined make up the largest share of the military operational footprint in Missouri, while the defense industry makes up an even larger share in terms of the economic impact on the state.

Critical to our team's efforts is a close working relationship that reflects the outstanding advocacy from Missouri's Congressional Delegation. The Congressional Delegation is certainly one of Missouri's strengths and the major installations enjoy congressional representation on critical DoD oversight committees, the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Kit Bond Strategies continues to gather and provide critical information out of Washington to provide a more complete and accurate picture of the potential impact DoD decisions will have on Missouri. This work has been

difficult given the increased amount of uncertainty and political sensitivity due to the heightened impact that decisions are having on states and communities across the country. The major force structure decisions pending include:

- **Fort Leonard Wood (FLW):** Continued Army personnel reductions and the potential impact it will have on basic training at FLW; Maneuver Enhancement Brigade reductions (4th MEB) and Army Hospital consolidation (General Leonard Wood Army Hospital).
- **Whiteman Air Force Base:** A-10 Thunderbolt fleet retirement (442nd Fighter Wing); Army National Guard Combat Aviation (AH-64 Apache) force structure changes at the 1-135th Combat Aviation Battalion.
- **Air Force/Air National Guard:** C-130 airlift force structure, J model recapitalization, Weapons Instructor Course and C-130 H modernization funding (139th Airlift Wing St. Joseph, MO)

The Hawthorn Foundation and KBS will continue to work with the defense communities and constituencies of Missouri in a well-coordinated partnership to convince policymakers, senior military and DoD leaders that Missouri is right for our nation's military. The Hawthorn Foundation will continue to create opportunities to seek input, share ideas and support the execution of initiatives that will protect and enhance Missouri's military-based economy. These initiatives, with the guidance from our team of expert consultants, will be clearly identified and articulated



(l-r): Command Sergeant Major Terrence Murphy and Commanding general Major General Leslie C. Smith at Missouri Military Awareness Day, organized in conjunction with MMPEC and KBS

in order to most effectively utilize state resources. These collaborative efforts are needed until such time that our leaders in Washington are able to find a way to reduce the deficit without compromising America's national security. However, for the foreseeable future and

until such time that they are able to do so, the Hawthorn Foundation will continue to *MO*bilize support for Missouri's critical DoD-based jobs and economic activity.



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