

**GREAT FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CENTRAL MONTANA DEFENSE ALLIANCE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
March 31, 2010**

Alliance Purpose:

The Alliance will support existing organizations in the region including Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana Air National Guard and other guard and reserve units; Homeland Security, Border Patrol and others as identified. The Alliance will be the regions' officially recognized organization, providing "one message", to local, state and federal representatives to maintain current missions, promote new missions, increase capabilities and growth that is in the best interest of the region, Montana and our Nation.

Program of Work:

The Alliance will be an official entity of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and as such will follow the guidelines of the 2009-2010 Program of Work.

Alliance Membership:

The Permanent Core Membership of the Alliance comprises the following organizations and are automatic members of the Executive Committee:

- Cascade County – Joe Briggs
- City of Great Falls – Greg Doyon
- Great Falls Airport Authority – Susan Humble
- Great Falls Development Authority – Brett Doney
- Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce – Steve Malicott

Other elected members of the Executive Committee; serving staggered terms are:

- Dave Bertelsen (2 year term)
- George Campanella (1 year term)
- John Hayes (1 year term)
- Al Hobbs (2 year term)
- Owen Robinson (3 year term)
- David Weissman (1 year term)
- Ken Van Sickle (3 year term)

On May 5, 2009 the following Executive Committee members elected Officers for the Alliance:

- David Weissman – Alliance Chair
- Dave Bertelsen – 1st Vice Chair
- Steve Malicott – Treasurer

Officer and first year terms will run through September 30, 2010. At Large Alliance Membership is open to any individual who is a Chamber Member and pays the Annual \$250.00 assessment.

In addition, Brigadier General Retired Tanberg and Warren Wenz have agreed to be mentors to the CMDA

Alliance Financials:

Permanent Core Members will pay \$2,500 annually

At-large members will be assessed \$250 annually – this amount is determined annually by the executive committee and approved by the Alliance membership at the Annual Alliance meeting. The next member assessment will be in October, 2010.

Other contributions from Supporters of the Alliance will be solicited in a variety of ways and will be classified as follows:

- Supporter (\$1 to \$249)
- Member (\$250) CMDA Members as of 2.28/2010 is 57
- Major Contributor (\$500 or more – This level will also include one Alliance Membership)

New CMDA contributors include:

- Rocky Mountain Sleep Center
- H & H Crane

Welcome to the CMDA and thank you for your support!

As of February 28, 2010 the Alliance has an account balance of \$33,564.75. Following is a description of Deposits and Withdrawals since October 31, 2009:

| Date | Description | Deposit | Withdrawal | Balance |
|-------------|---|----------|------------|-------------|
| 10/31/2009 | Beginning Bal. | | | \$28,247.10 |
| | | | | |
| 10/6-8/2010 | Trip – 50 th Anniversary ICBM Symposium (DB) | | 1,012.21 | 26,602.06 |
| 11/2010 | RFP/RFQ Ad in Billings Gazette | | 106.56 | 26,495.50 |
| 11/2010 | Deposit from Pack funds | 2,001.60 | | 28,497.10 |
| 11/2010 | Admin fee to Chamber | | 2,500.00 | 25,997.10 |
| 11/2010 | Core Member fee – Airport Authority | 2,250.00 | | 28,247.10 |
| 12/2010 | Facilitator Gift Cert. | | 100.00 | 28,147.10 |
| 12/2010 | Core Member fee – | 2,500.00 | | 30,647.10 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|----------|----------|-------------|
| | Chamber | | | |
| 12/2010 | Donation – Northrup | 5,000.00 | | 35,647.10 |
| 2/2010 | Supplies | | 21.25 | 35,625.85 |
| 2/2010 | Travel Expenses for DC Trip – S. Malicott | | 1,439.00 | 34,186.85 |
| 2/2010 | Travel Expense for ADC mtg. in Alb, NM - D. Weissman | | 551.15 | 33,636.70 |
| 2/2010 | Dinner meeting with retired Gen. Bramlett & Gen. Gen. Tanberg – DW, WW & SH | | 70.95 | 33,564.75 |
| 2/28/2010 | Ending Balance | | | \$33,564.75 |

In addition, the Alliance has become the trustee for the BASE funds previously held by the City. The fund balance is \$91,208.00 and is in a separate money market account.

Alliance Meetings:

The Alliance Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Video Conference Center.

Strategic Plan:

On October 14, 2010, the Alliance Executive Committee held a Strategic Planning Session at Benefis Hospital. Following are the highlights of the “Action Plan” that resulted from that meeting:

- A three part Action Plan was developed consisting of the following objectives:
 - Malmstrom AFB (Keep the Missiles) – Chair, Dave Bertelsen
 - MANG (Extend F-15’s) – Chair, David Weissman
 - New Missions – Chair – Steve Malicott
- An action calendar and time line has been developed to track results (See attachment # 1)
- The Action Plan is updated and adjusted on a regular basis

Activities and Events:

October, 2009 – An RFP/RFQ was released and distributed with legal notices published in the Great Falls Tribune, the Billings Gazette and the Missoula Missoulian.

The purpose of this project is to provide the CMDA with tools to assist in current mission sustainability and help in identification of future attainable missions for Malmstrom and MANG.

- The RFP/RFQ was sent to all known and potentially qualified vendors

- The response due date was November 16, 2009
- We received 5 qualified responses
- Following review, Basile Baumann Prost & Associates (BBPA) was selected as the vendor
- Cascade County has negotiated the Contract and the Chamber will be the administrator
- BBPA visited Great Falls during the week of March 1st. They met with the following groups and/or individuals to get input; The CMDA, David Weissman, Steve Malicott, Col Fortney, General Livingston, Joe Briggs, Greg Doyon, Jeff Mangan, Brett Doney, MSUGF-COT, Senator Baucus and Senator Tester Field Reps., Warren Wenz, and Retired Brig. Gen Tanberg.
- Final report from BBPA is scheduled for the April/May time frame

During the month of October, 2009 CMDA members met with Senator Tester concerning MANG, had a dinner meeting with General Berg and attended an OEA conference in Orlando.

During the month of December, 2009 a joint letter from the ICBM State Representatives was sent to the Secretary of Defense. We also learned that Malmstrom is in the running to receive an E-Records Mission. Work continues on the potential opportunity.

David Weissman also met with Chris Aageson from the Governor's Economic Development Office. They had good discussions about the future of MANG and David was also introduced to a private company which has expressed interest in Great Falls for future use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's). There is potential for 400 jobs with use of this technology.

February 1, 2010 – David Weissman met with Senator Baucus and Senator Tester's Staff to discuss future missions

February 2, 2010 – David Weissman met with Col. Hroneck from MANG and Cynthia Schultz from the Airport Authority. This turned out to be an opportunity to meet with General Livingston and Col Lynde and several other key constituents. They discussed several key issues which included; the need to talk with the Governor, getting the Hayes MOA opened for a training ground. Also discussed the F-15E strike fighter.

February 21-24, 2010 – David Weissman and Greg Doyon attended the Association of Defense Communities Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

February 22, 2010 – Several members of the Alliance met with the Base Planning office to determine Economic Impact on Great Falls, surrounding counties and with the state. This impact information will be used in discussions with all levels of government officials to help re-enforce the economic importance of the base on surrounding areas and the State of Montana.

March 18th, 2010 – David Weissman went to Helena to meet with Chris Aageson, Tom Boyle, and Roger Hagen regarding a possible RPA (Remote Piloted Aircraft) mission that is looking at Malmstrom to be the base of operations. This is an excellent opportunity that will prove challenging due to the status of the runway at Malmstrom. We will press forward and get the GFDA involved as well.

Accomplishments:

Creation of an “Action Plan”

Distribution of an RFP/RFQ with an award to BBPA

Ongoing meetings have been held with the Federal Delegation allowing us to coordinate strategies on making our Action Plan a reality

Ongoing meetings with Malmstrom AFB and MANG leadership to ensure we understand their priorities for maintaining current mission and identifying new missions going forward

David Weissman and Warren Wenz have been nominated, by Col Fortney, and accepted as members of the Commanders Support Group for Global Strike.

Detailed trip reports are being provided

From a financial standpoint, we have 57 paid Alliance members

Next Steps:

Development of and ongoing work on the “Action Plan”

Work with BBPA on obtaining a final report as a result of the RFP/RFQ

Ongoing work with the Federal Delegation, the Governor and Malmstrom and MANG leadership

Scheduled Trips/Meetings:

- March 3, 2010 – The Great Falls Washington DC delegation will meet for final planning and coordination for the March 8-12 trip. They will meet with Col Fortney to verify Military Construction (MILCON) Projects. They will also meet with General Livingston and Col Hronek to ensure that MANG’s desires in the area of future fighter missions are accurately presented in DC.
- March 8-12, 2010 – Washington DC -- David Weissman, Dave Bertelsen, and Steve Malicott will represent the CMDA. Other members of the delegation will come from GFDA, the City, Cascade County, MSU and the School District. During this trip, face to face meetings are scheduled with Senator

Baucus, Senator Tester and Representative Rehberg. Meetings at the Pentagon are also scheduled. *UPDATE: The trip to D.C. went very well. All of our scheduled meetings with the Senators and Congressman happened and we are happy to report they are engaged with regards to potential missile reductions as well as working on either a longer term for the F-15's at MANG or a comparable follow on mission. We also met with Major General Alston, current Assistant Chief of Staff Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Integration at the Pentagon as well as James Holland, Deputy for Installation and Policy, Rich Rico, Chief of Staff ANG Readiness Center, Lt. Col. Roy Ingram, ANG LCAP Division Chief, Col. Edward Chupein, Chief USAF Rangers and Airspace, and Walt Moddison, Executive Officer for the Commander ANGR.*

- March 21-24, 2010 – Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base; David Weissman and Warren Wenz will attend the Global Strike Command Spring Conference. *UPDATE: Warren and I spent four days in Shreeveport, La at Barksdale A.F.B. attending the first ever Global Strike Command Spring Conference. Not only is it an honor to serve on Col. Fortney's commanders group for Malmstrom, it is an amazing opportunity to further education on the direction of Global Strike Command and the direction given by our President. It is also a great opportunity to meet and work with the leaders of Global Strike Command and each of the bases they oversee. These are contacts that will carry on as Global Strike evolves in the future.*
- *TBD – The Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is due out any day now. The final outcome of this may require another quick trip to D.C. by one or two of our team. More information to follow.*
- October, 2010 – Association of Air Force Missileers, Tucson, Arizona ---- Attendees to be determined at a later date. (This conference will be held in Great Falls in 2012 – 50 years at Malmstrom)

Annual Meeting with Alliance Members

Final Thoughts:

We are hopeful that this report is helpful in bringing you up-to-date on the CMDA activities since our October report. As you may have noticed, we started this report quite sometime ago and all of the travel in between delayed it going out to you. It is our intention to give you bullets of what we are doing, or this could be a VERY long report. If you need or desire further information, please call me and I will be happy to fill you in!

We also hope you can see from this report, we are very active in efforts to maintain or even better, grow Military presence in Great Falls and the surrounding area. As member's of the Alliance, we rely on you so we are able to represent Great Falls in these challenging times for our Military. Please share your input and/or ideas that will help make the CMDA even better. Please provide your input to David Weissman, Alliance Chair at 868-3004 or e-mail subwaymt@gmail.com.

Also, if you know of anyone who would like to be involved in our efforts going forward please share the name(s) with David or Tom at the Chamber Office.

We are very lucky to have our men and women in uniform as neighbors and friends!

Thanks for your support in this very important work.

Respectfully,

David J. Weissman
Chair, Central Montana Defense Alliance

“Together we are more effective”