

**GREAT FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CENTRAL MONTANA DEFENSE ALLIANCE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
March 8, 2010**

Alliance Purpose:

The Alliance will support existing organizations in the region including Malmstrom, AFB, Montana Air National Guard and other guard and reserve units; Homeland Security, Boarder 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 54
- 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 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.

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 Malmstrm 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 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.
- March 21-24, 2010 – Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base; David Weissman and Warren Wenz will attend the Global Strike Command Spring Conference.
- 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:

I am hopeful that this report is helpful in bringing you up-to-date on the CMDA activities since our October report.

The alliance members have very active in efforts to maintain or Military presence in Great Falls and the surrounding area.

Please give David Weissman a call at 868-3004 or e-mail subwaymt@gmail.com.

Please share your input and/or ideas that will help make the CMDA even better. Feel free to call or e-mail. Here is my information; David Weissman cell number, 868-3004 or e-mail subwaymt@gmail.com.

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

“Together we are more effective”

ATTACHMENT # 1

a. Coordination/Calendar

	OBJECTIVE	STEPS	WHEN	WHO	COST	S
1	Keep Missiles	Get list of County Commissioners	10/16	George		Received from County
		Get current financial data MAFB	12/24	Dave		A formal request for i letterhead was made. 22 at the Base Contract information and their
		Set up County Commissioners meeting, County/State Buy-in	10/23	Al Dave George		Pending additional data presentation
		Develop PowerPoint Presentation	Two weeks prior			Pending additional data presentation
		Conduct meeting with Commissioners	Jan			Pending PowerPoint c collection
		Meet with D.C. Delegation	Nov/Dec			Health Care precluded Mar 2010
		Maintain open communication at all levels				Ongoing

2	Extend F-15	Meet with MANG Leadership	23 Oct			Complete and follow
		Set meeting with General	10 Nov			Complete and follow
		Delegation to address current F-15 plan	Nov			Complete
		Meeting with DC Reps, Governor, MANG and CMDA	Schedule by Nov 10			DC Meetings established 2010
		Training Air Space Identified and Approved	Jan 10			Confirmed
		Maintain open communication at all levels				Ongoing

3	New Missions	Send out RFQ to take advantage of DOD plans	15 Nov	Chamber		Complete
		E-Med Records support Letter to DC Reps	1 Nov	Steve		Complete Pending final decision
		Meet with HLS	15 Jan	Greg		Scheduling
		Met with Shelby/Havre	15 Feb	Brett	\$150	Scheduling
		Evaluate product awarded through the RFQ – Prioritize	1 Apr	All		
		Energy lease/use agreement @ MAFB	Ongoing	Brett	\$5K	
		Move BASE Funds to CMDA	Letter of rec to City	Greg	1 Nov	Complete, \$91,208.15
		Meet with MAFB & MANG on potential missions they could support	15 Dec	Brett		Complete, March 3, 2015 also pending results of
		Maintain open communication at all levels				Ongoing