

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1562

Executive Order Numbers 915 (January 13, 2004), 1290 (March 13, 2012) and 1317 (March 12, 2013) are superseded as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi's military installations, infrastructure and personnel make invaluable contributions to our national security and our State's economy; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi communities have organized teams that have engaged in active efforts to support military installations; and

WHEREAS, many of these Mississippi communities have achieved success not only in defending these military installations, but also in enhancing these installations to the benefit of the State of Mississippi and the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the experience, relationships and knowledge developed within these community teams can be invaluable to the State of Mississippi and other communities in regard to future efforts to enhance the State's military installations; and

WHEREAS, these communities previously worked closely with the State of Mississippi when they were organized as the Mississippi Military Communities Council; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense continues to engage in initiatives and efforts that may make substantial changes to these military installations that can affect infrastructure, personnel and funding for Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard forces located in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi will benefit from the continued active involvement of communities with military installations, both in seeking to avoid reductions in infrastructure, personnel and funding, and in seeking to attract new missions, new facilities and increased defense-related employment; and

WHEREAS, these communities are desirous of working together with the State of Mississippi for the benefit of the entire State.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, hereby establish the Mississippi Defense Communities Development Council ("Council"). The Council's duties and composition are as follows:

1. The Council is created to provide a body in which representatives from the communities in which military installations are located can advise executive and legislative officials regarding opportunities and threats to military installations in the State of Mississippi. Specifically, the duties of the Council shall be to: (a) Advocate on behalf of the State's military installations with the federal legislative delegation and members of the federal executive branch; (b) Advise the State's executive and legislative officials regarding efforts of the United States Department of Defense to close, realign, restructure or otherwise take actions that would impact military installations in the State; and (c) Advise the State's executive and legislative officials regarding opportunities to enhance, expand, add or otherwise improve missions, programs, facilities or operations affecting the State's military installations.

2. Administrative support for the Council shall be provided by the Mississippi Development Authority. The Governor's Office of Military Affairs shall act as the coordinator for the Council and shall help direct its activities in coordination with the Governor and his designated representatives.

3. For each active duty military installation and National Guard training center in the State, community and economic development teams organized to monitor federal base restructuring activities and/or to enhance nearby military installations shall be represented on the Council. Specifically, the Council shall be made up of one (1) Primary Representative and one (1) Alternative Representative from each community in which the following military installations are located:

- Keesler Air Force Base (Biloxi)

- Columbus Air Force Base (Columbus)
- Naval Air Station Meridian (Meridian)
- Naval Construction Battalion (Gulfport)
- Stennis Space Center and DOD Resident Agencies (Hancock County)
- Camp Shelby JFTC (Forrest County)
- Combat Readiness Training Center (Gulfport)
- Camp McCain Training Center (Grenada)
- 186th Air Refueling Wing, MS ANG (Meridian)
- 172nd Airlift Wing, MS ANG (Rankin County)
- Engineer Research and Dev. Center (Vicksburg)
- Supervisor of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast (Jackson County)

4. The local nominating authority for each military installation shall be the county's economic development entity. The local nominating authority shall biannually submit to the Governor its recommendations for Primary Representative and Alternative Representative to the Council. These individuals may be members of the civic, political or business leadership of the community. Where more than one installation exists in a county, the local nominating authority will nominate one representative for each installation, of which, only one nominee will be the Primary Representative for the county. The Governor shall appoint the Primary Representative and Alternative Representative from each community from the list of recommendations submitted by the county's economic development entity. The Primary Representative and Alternative Representative from each community shall serve a term of two-years and may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

5. The Council shall meet at least quarterly and shall organize and conduct itself pursuant to a set of operating principles and bylaws adopted by the Council.

6. The Governor shall also appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and may appoint any such other At-Large member(s) of the Council as the Governor deems appropriate. The Governor's appointees shall serve a term concurrent with the term of the Governor, and each appointee may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. In addition, a designee from the MDA Executive Committee or the Governor's Office of Military Affairs shall serve as an *Ex Officio*, non-voting member of the Council.

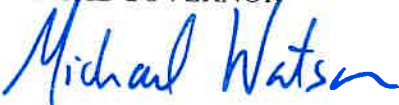


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 21st day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR



MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1561

WHEREAS, Mississippi's dedicated military-connected families live and work in every county in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 there were over 7,300 children of active duty military members under the age of 18 in the State of Mississippi, many attending public schools and charter schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, military children face unique challenges related to military transitions and parental deployment; and

WHEREAS, military children and their families are an essential source of support and encouragement for armed service members; and

WHEREAS, military children should be acknowledged and supported for the sacrifices they make and celebrated for the courage they display as the children of our nation's armed service members; and

WHEREAS, public and charter schools are uniquely situated to support military children and their families; and

WHEREAS, every student enrolled in a public or charter school that is a dependent of a current or former member of the United States military serving on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard, or a reserve component of any branch of the United States military or the Mississippi National Guard, will benefit from a program designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military children face during their transition to a new school.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby direct the Mississippi Department of Education ("Department") to create and administer a program, to be known as the Military Star School Program, to recognize schools that maintain a school culture supportive of military children.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Department will adopt a criteria for school eligibility that requires a school applying for the Military Star designation to:

1. Designate a staff member as a Military Ambassador;
2. Maintain a webpage on the school's website which includes resources for military students and their families;
3. Maintain a peer-to-peer transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school; and
4. Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.

The Department may establish additional criteria to identify schools that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families, such

as hosting an annual military recognition event, partnering with a school liaison officer from a military installation, supporting projects that connect the school with the military community, and/or providing outreach for military parents and their children.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 21st day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.


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