



## NEWS UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

May 20, 2009

Welcome to the inaugural issue of SDMAC's News Update for Members. We will be providing these updates to you at various times throughout the year as a means of increasing communication with our membership. Our goal is to apprise you of SDMAC's activities over the last few months as well as to bring to the forefront the numerous issues we are currently addressing in support of the military and defense communities within the San Diego region. We encourage your participation and involvement in our outstanding organization.

*John Nersesian, SDMAC President*

### SDMAC Executive Director's Report

As SDMAC embarks on its fifth year of operation, we are very proud of our accomplishments, and very excited about the future, as we continue to focus on our mission of "...supporting the business interests of the military, their quality of life issues and the defense community in the San Diego region". Our monthly breakfast meetings will continue to be the focal point of our interaction with the membership, and we are committed to bringing you top notch speakers who can share with us the latest information on topics of interest to our members and their guests. A major focus this year will be on increased communications with our membership, using as many avenues as become available to us. In addition to this News Update, we have made a concerted effort to keep our web site up to date with the latest information for both current members as well as prospective members. If you have to miss a meeting, you can now view the video of past meetings on the "Events" section of the web site, [www.sdmac.org](http://www.sdmac.org). We strongly urge you to visit the site frequently. We are also using our weekly segment "Sign On with SDMAC", on the Community Spotlight section of Sign On San Diego radio, [www.signonsandiego.com](http://www.signonsandiego.com), to get the word out in the community on what your organization is doing to support the military community.

In 2009, as we have for the past several years, we began the new year with a joint meeting between the regional Military Commanders and the SDMAC leadership, at which we discussed their priorities, with the objective on SDMAC's part to map out how our organization can lend support to these priorities. This year's meeting held in early January, was attended by: Radm Len Hering; MajGen Mike Lehnert; Radm Chris Hunter; Terry Magee, 2008 SDMAC President; John Nersesian, current SDMAC President; Tony Nufer, President-Elect; and me. You will see in some of the articles included in this Update that much of our focus in 2009 is on personnel-related issues. Wounded service member support will always be on the top of our list, as it should be. In addition, SDMAC is heavily involved in supporting veterans' transition issues, employment and education opportunities. We will continue to support military dependents-related issues, such as the Interstate Compact on Education for Military Dependents, and increased funding under the TRICARE system for military dependents with special needs, such as those stricken with autism. We are also happy to report that it appears that the majority of the legal issues that have held up the start of the Navy's Broadway Complex are starting to get resolved in the Navy's favor. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this project will come to fruition in 2009.

As we continue to move forward in 2009, I not only solicit your inputs, but urge you to get involved. We do not believe that we have a monopoly on new and innovative ideas. Our Issues and Focus groups can always use an extra hand. Please feel free to contact me at [executivedirector@sdmac.org](mailto:executivedirector@sdmac.org). It is only with your support that we can continue to move this organization forward.

*Larry Blumberg*

## Recent Activities of SDMAC and its Issue/Focus Groups

- ◆ SDMAC's Broadway Complex Issue Group continued to track the legal and legislative developments affecting the Complex's progress. Dwayne Junker (Group Chair) is tracking HR 740, which was introduced by Congressman Bob Filner and which could negatively impact the property's development (see page three of this Update). SDMAC has contacted Congressman Filner's office to discuss the Bill. Larry Blumberg (SDMAC Executive Director) met with Congresswoman Susan Davis in Washington, DC to discuss SDMAC's pro-development position regarding the Complex as the Congresswoman opposes its development.
- ◆ The Regional Transportation Issue Group showed support of the Navy's and SANDAG's RideLink partnership to develop short-, mid-, and long-range transportation options such as the use of bus pools and flexible vanpools, as a means to improve the equality of life for commuters accessing the naval bases in the San Diego area. With the planned arrival of the USS Carl Vinson in San Diego in April 2010, Pete Hedley (Group Chair) indicated that SDMAC is looking to see how the Navy and the City of Coronado will be preparing for homeporting three aircraft carriers and how transportation of people and sailors via the mass transit system can possibly be used to reduce traffic. The military is the biggest user of public transportation within San Diego.
- ◆ The Legislative Committee under the chairmanship of Frank Hewitt started dialogue with San Diego City Council members as to SDMAC's Focus/Issue Groups' work. Similar briefings were conducted by the Committee with Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher, City Council Member Carl DeMaio, and City Council Member Todd Gloria. The Legislative Committee is currently working to arrange briefings for members of San Diego County's Board of Supervisors, with the first briefing planned for Supervisor Gregg Cox in May and Councilman Kevin Faulkner thereafter. In March, the Committee held a Legislative Committee Networking Breakfast at MCAS Miramar for the education of our local legislative staffers regarding the Air Station. Cubic Defense sponsored the breakfast.
- ◆ Tony Nufer (Co-Chair of the Military, Family & Wounded Support Issue Group), represented SDMAC at the Wounded Warriors Barracks groundbreaking at Camp Pendleton. The Issue Group has begun follow-up on an AFCEA pilot program for transitioning veterans. John Moffett (Group Co-Chair) informed SDMAC of the non-profit organization CAUSE (Comfort for America's Uniformed Services) and their urgent need for volunteers to continue their work. CAUSE focuses upon helping injured service members' recoveries by engaging them in activities and recreation within their local communities. Jim Bedinger (Group Co-Chair) indicated that the Military Saves Week in San Diego was a great success. The Week included numerous financial seminars for the benefit of military members and their families. The seminars were provided by a Department of Defense Road Team (including MCRD and MCAS Miramar) and a number of banks (including Armed Forces Bank and USAFed).
- ◆ The Ship Construction/Repair and Environmental Issue Group under Lee Wilson's chairmanship, has plans to engage with the Legislative Committee regarding State storm water standards. Specifically regarding SB 413, the Group is communicating to State legislators that there is a concern over the Bill's amendments that would assess additional fees on waste discharge and NPDES permit holders. These additional fees, which would fund the updating of state plans, such as basin plans, would place the entire burden of water quality planning on just a few who happen to be at the "end of the pipe". Instead, new fees should be more suitably allocated throughout the entire basin, as the major cause of exceedances in water equality standards is due to general urban runoff.
- ◆ Ray Roth (Chair of SDMAC's Education & Veteran Transition Support Issue Group) attended a Troops for College meeting hosted by the military. The meeting focused on the kinesiology program at Camp Pendleton and is aimed at educating veterans (who are transitioning to civilian life), as to what educational opportunities may be available to them. The Issue Group is also looking for ways to foster support for AB 343 regarding the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.
- ◆ The Bases & Infrastructure Issue Group (Co-chaired by Mike Allen and Earl Wederbrook) represented SDMAC at a briefing regarding the JSF-MV-22 and its two associated main issues — homeporting of the JSF-MV-22 and airspace management. The JSF is scheduled for introduction at Yuma in 2012 and at Miramar in 2017.

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- ◆ Public Information/Relations Committee Chair Annette Peck has brought on board the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation to videotape SDMAC's monthly breakfast meetings. The film work provides on-the-job training for wounded marines and navy corpsmen while also providing streaming video of our monthly breakfast speakers on SDMAC's website for members to view. The Committee is also focusing on creating new communication pieces for SDMAC (such as this News Update), to ensure members are kept informed and current as to our organization's on-going activities.
- ◆ SDMAC members John Nersesian, Tony Nufer, Ken Slaght, Pete Hedley, Dwayne Junker, Earl Wederbrook, Lee Wilson, Dan Dufresne, Larry Blumberg, and Annette Peck met with a group of 18 distinguished international visitors traveling to the U.S. under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State. The delegation was interested in learning how SDMAC successfully fulfills its mission to support the military and defense community within the San Diego area.

### Legislation SDMAC is Currently Tracking

Below is the legislation that SDMAC is tracking closely and lobbying for/against, as appropriate, with legislators.

**HR 740 (111th Congress)** — Prohibits the lease of non-excess land that is under the control of a military department if the land is located in an area designated UBC Seismic Zone 4. Provides for an exception if it is determined that seismic activity would not have any significant impact on any portion of the proposed development under the lease. Status of bill: Was introduced 1/28/09 and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Readiness. *SDMAC opposes the bill.*

**HR 1600** — Would amend Title 10 of the United States Code to provide for the treatment of autism under TRI-CARE (a Department of Defense managed health care program), if a health care professional determines that such treatment is medically necessary. Status of bill: Was introduced 3/18/09 and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. *SDMAC supports this bill.*

**AB 223** — Would require the San Francisco Board of Education to make Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) courses available to pupils under its jurisdiction in grades 9 to 12. Status of bill: Was introduced in 2/09 and will be heard by the Appropriations Committee. *SDMAC supports this bill.*

**AB 343** — Would allow California to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which would provide for the uniform treatment, at the state and local district level, of military children transferring between school districts and states. Status of bill: Was introduced 2/19/09 and is currently in suspense with the Appropriations Committee. *SDMAC supports this bill.*

**AB 694** — Would repeal the provisions of certain 1929 Statutes relating to tidelands and submerged lands thus freeing former tidelands granted to the City of San Diego from use restrictions among other things. The bill responds to a federal district court decision in 1991 upholding the Navy's assertion that the Navy Broadway Complex is free from the public trust and associated use restrictions of the 1929 Statutes. Status of bill: Was introduced 2/26/09 and is being reviewed by Assembly Committee. *SDMAC opposes this bill.*

**SB 139** — Would establish a moratorium on the shoreland protection act and establish a commission to study revision of the shoreland protection act. Status of bill: Was introduced in 2/09. *SDMAC supports this bill.*

**SB 765** — Would provide an exemption from the sales and use tax for sales made by thrift stores operated in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps. Status of bill: Was introduced in 2/09. *SDMAC supports this bill.*

[The legislative summaries provided are not intended to be all inclusive; please refer to the actual legislation for complete details.]

## Membership Growth Continues at SDMAC

Both individual and corporate memberships of SDMAC continue to grow in number. We currently have over 90 corporate members hailing from all industries in the San Diego area, and over 300 individual members. Alan Baca (SDMAC Membership Committee Chair) is encouraging current members to introduce new prospective members to our organization.

The following corporate and individual members have joined or renewed their memberships during the first quarter of 2009:

**Corporate Members:** Adamo Construction, Inc., Airdale Brewing Company, Charter School of San Diego, Cooley Godward Kronish LLP, Covington & Burling LLP, Hitachi Consulting, Information Systems Laboratories, LEAD San Diego, Nielsen Construction California

**Individual Members:** Dennis Araujo, Phyllis Barber, Sherry Beckman, Thomas Bice, Steven Birmingham, Vadm Edward Briggs USN (Ret), Waldo Brunner, Charles Carey, Ed Caviness, Paul Christian, Jim Christopher, Richard Cloward, Charlie Conatser, Chris Cooke, Helna Correll, Cory Cunningham, Stephen Cushman, Paul Denyer, Gregg Doherty, Dennis DuBard, Brad Fisher, Hany Girgis, E. Miles Harvey, Kevork Hashas, Marvin Heinze, Brian Henry, Andy Hewitt, Frank Hewitt, Dave Jennings, Radm James Johnson MC USN (Ret), Jerry Lampert, Col Raymond Liddy USMCR (Ret.), Clifford Link, David Lloyd, Ken Marra, Anthony McIvor, Michael McCallum, Clifford Myers, Stewart Navarre, Tony Nufer, Al Ovrom, Kathy Prout, George Reed, Joseph Rowland, Bob Schoultz, Dennis Schulz, Steve Shoop, Suzanne Sincavage, Andy Toth, Bruce Totty, Lee Wengronowitz, Bruce White.

## Military Movements

SDMAC wishes to recognize and personally thank several military Officers who have or will be having Changes of Command over the next few months. We thank these individuals for their partnerships with our organization over the years and we wish them much success in their new endeavors.

- ◆ Change of Command and Retirement for **Colonel Christopher E. O'Connor, USMC, Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar** (April 5, 2009). Command was relinquished to **Colonel David C. Myers, USMC**.
- ◆ Change of Command for **Rear Admiral Christine S. Hunter, MC, USN**, (May 22, 2009). Radm Hunter was relieved by **Rear Admiral Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler, NC, USN**. Radm Hunter's new duties will be as Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity in Falls Church, Virginia.
- ◆ Change of Command and Retirement for **Rear Admiral Leendert R. 'Len' Hering, Sr. USN, Commander, Navy Region Southwest** (August 14, 2009). Command will be assumed by **Rear Admiral William D. French**.
- ◆ Change of Command for **Brigadier General Angela Salinas, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; and Commanding General, Western Recruiting Region** (tentatively set for August 28, 2009) to be relieved by **BGen Ronald L. Bailey**. BGen Salinas' new duties will be in Manpower Management at Marine Headquarters.
- ◆ Change of Command and Retirement for **Major General Michael R. Lehnert, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West** (October 2009) to be relieved by **Major General Anthony L. Jackson**.

SDMAC extends a warm welcome to Colonel David Myers, Radm Christine Bruzek-Kohler, Radm William French, BGen Ronald Bailey, and MajGen Anthony Jackson.