



QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

September 1, 2009

President's Message

Feedback on our inaugural issue of SDMAC's "Quarterly News Update for Members" published in May 2009, indicates that it was well received. We will continue to publish these updates in order to keep our members informed as to SDMAC's activities that have transpired over the last few months as well as the numerous issues that your Board of Directors, Issue /Focus Groups, and Committee Chairs are presently addressing in support of the military and defense communities within the San Diego region.

These are exciting times for our organization as we embark upon, among other things, the updating of the SDMAC 2008 Military Economic Impact Study in partnership with Export Access (see page six for further details).

In September, SDMAC's Board of Directors met with outgoing and incoming Flag Officers at a reception. The gathering afforded us the opportunity to thank the departing Officers for their support of SDMAC over the past many years, and to welcome the new Officers and introduce them to our organization.

Thank you for your continued participation and involvement in SDMAC. I encourage you to invite individuals and companies with which you associate, to become members of SDMAC. We continue to make a positive impact upon our military and defense communities.

John Nersesian
SDMAC President

SDMAC Executive Director's Report

As you will see from the information and updates contained in the following pages of this Update, SDMAC has continued to take an active role in support of the military and military-related issues in the San Diego region. With lots of support from Public Relations Chair, Annette Peck, we have continued to improve and update the SDMAC web site at www.sdmac.org. We strongly urge you to visit it frequently, and we welcome your feedback on ways to make it even better.

As we approach the completion of SDMAC's fifth year of operation, we are extremely proud to report that our corporate membership is fast approaching the century mark and, as of the date of publication of this "News Update", we stand at 97 corporate members. Our individual membership also continues to grow, and we now are over 300 strong. This kind of vibrant community support greatly enhances our ability to be heard and to present positions on key issues critical to the military in ways and in forums not always available to the uniformed military. We have also been able to offer feedback to the military on a variety of issues, including advising on constructive approaches to resolution.

As we look to the future, we are optimistic that SDMAC will continue to be a strong voice in the San Diego region, particularly focusing on the many and varied positive impacts that the military presence brings to our community.

Larry Blumberg
Executive Director

~ PLAN TO ATTEND THESE UPCOMING SDMAC EVENTS ~

- September 24** — **SDMAC Monthly Breakfast Meeting at Admiral Kidd Club from 7:30—9:00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Major General Mike Lehnert, Commanding General Marine Corps Installations West**
- October 21** — **SDMAC / Fleet Week Breakfast Meeting at Admiral Kidd Club from 7:30—9:00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus**
- November 18** — **SDMAC Monthly Breakfast Meeting at Admiral Kidd Club from 7:30—9:00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rear Admiral Mark Heinrich, Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers**
- December 9** — **SDMAC Annual Achievement Awards at Admiral Kidd Club from 7:30—9:00 a.m.**

Recent Activities of SDMAC and its Issue/Focus Groups

- ◆ The **Bases & Infrastructure Issue Group** (co-chaired by Mike Allen and Earl Wederbrook) is presently focused on Assembly Bill 694 (*see page five for further information*), and the planned development of the F-35B and the MV-22 to MCAS Miramar and/or Camp Pendleton. By repealing existing law that has been in place since 1929, AB 694 would not only restrict military use of land legitimately conveyed to our military, but it would also take control of local tidelands and submerged lands from the City of San Diego and place it in the State Lands Commission. Larry Blumberg sent letters to Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Fran Pavely in June stating SDMAC's opposition to AB 694.

Current planning calls for twelve F-35B squadrons (182 aircraft) to be based in Yuma and MCAS Miramar. The F-35B's will replace 206 F-18 and AV-8 aircraft. The first F-35B squadrons are scheduled to arrive in Yuma in 2012 at Miramar in 2017. Over the past year, environment impact study public scoping sessions were held in San Diego and Yuma.

- ◆ Dwayne Junker (chair of the **Broadway Complex Issue Group**) reports positive developments regarding the Complex Plan's legal proceedings. The Navy Broadway Complex Coalition had filed appeals with the San Diego City Council in both State and Federal court to disqualify the Broadway Complex plan on grounds ranging from a faulty Environmental Impact Study (EIS), newly discovered earthquake faults, a lack of rail terrorism safeguards, and the possibility of contaminated ground water. All appeals have been dismissed. The Coalition had also filed suit to have the Broadway Complex plan overturned based on alleged non-compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the need to have access to redacted portions of the Navy contract with the Manchester Group that contain propriety financial information from the bidder. This litigation was dismissed in favor of the Navy and Manchester.

One lawsuit by the Coalition remains that has again challenged the validity of the EIS used to gain approval of the Broadway Complex plan. The federal court did not rule on the EIS itself but indicated that the Navy should gather more public input and report back to the court. That input was obtained and the Navy analyzed and developed a position for submission to the court. The Navy anticipates a ruling in its favor.

Recent Activities of SDMAC and its Issue/Focus Groups — continued

- ◆ The **Education and Veteran Transition Support Issue Group** is actively involved with chairing the local San Diego “Troops to College” (TTC) working group since forming it in 2007. The group consists of representatives from SDMAC, USMC Installations West staff, SDSU, Cal State San Marcos, UCSD, SD Community College District, Army/Navy/Air Force ROTCs, and USN Western Region ‘Navy College’. A goal is to have a true “GI Bill” for California veterans and service members while increasing enrollment of veterans in the California college and university systems. Successes locally for the TTC program have included greater on-base presence by state education institutions at job fairs and on-the-base education centers. Military commanders are referring twelve or more transitioning veterans for direct admissions to each of the Cal State University schools.

Ray Roth (chair of the Issue Group) attended the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting in July to help advance military issues. There is interest in promoting STEM efforts at the grade school through graduate levels. Roth has partnered with John Romero, an employment placement professional specializing in veterans, to assist in SDMAC’s effort to improve employment prospects for transitioning veterans, including vocational certifications.

The Issue Group is tracking the progress of AB 343 pertaining to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. *(See page five for further information.)*

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- ◆ Jim Bedinger (co-chair of the **Military Family & Wounded Support Issue Group**) was a guest speaker at the June 19th Wounded Warrior project graduation. Classes for graduation included computer skills, troubleshooting, resume do’s and don’ts, and other practical studies. The Issue Group reports that there are efforts being made within the community to develop quick loans for \$1,500 with online financial education and to use a social cap score that looks at credit, capability, and character. This type of scoring will help military personnel become eligible for loans with good interest rates.

Jim Johnson (co-chair of the Issue Group) reported that the San Diego Chargers (a SDMAC corporate member) held a Military Appreciation Night at a Chargers football game in August. The Chargers also had wounded warriors visit training camp practices (closed to the general public) at Chargers Park. Tony Nufer (co-chair of the Issue Group) indicates that the “American Combat Veterans of War”, a non-profit group associated with Camp Pendleton, is involved in providing self-help regarding veteran personnel issues, PTSD, traumatic brain injury, etc. Referrals to the group’s program(s) are from fellow Marines, and counselors are veterans.

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- ◆ The **Regional Transportation Issue Group** has been publicly showing SDMAC’s support of the San Diego Unified Port District’s Freeway Access Program. The Program provides intrinsic and direct benefits to the port for access and operational improvements pertaining to the San Diego waterfront. In particular, the completion of the Vesta Street Overpass is key to the Navy obtaining right of ways, lost property/access, and connecting the “dry” side to “wet” side of Naval Base San Diego. Pete Hedley (chair of the Issue Group) participated in the recent briefing of Congressman Duncan Hunter and Councilmember Kevin Faulconer about the importance of the Vesta Street bridge to the Navy.

The Issue Group continues to track the SR 75/282 Transportation Corridor Project (aka Coronado travel mitigation). SDMAC is concerned that if some mitigation of Navy-generated traffic cannot be found, the result could be a political and populist departure of traditional Coronado support for Navy personnel and operations on the island with significant adverse downstream effects.

Recent Activities of SDMAC and its Issue/Focus Groups — continued

- ◆ Lee Wilson (chair of the [Ship Repair/Construction/Environmental Issue Group](#)) reported a very favorable ruling by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (“Board”) for the Navy Region Southwest. At an August 12th hearing, the Board voted 5-2 against granting a permit for storm water run-off which, if passed, would have imposed toxicity limits which the Navy has contended would be impossible to achieve. As a part of the ruling, the Board directed its staff to work with the Navy to develop an achievable standard and which would also protect the waters of San Diego Bay. Larry Blumberg appeared before the Board hearing and provided testimony.

SDMAC Committee Updates**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Representatives from the SDMAC Legislative Committee, under the chairmanship of Frank Hewitt, have been meeting with numerous legislators and government officials to discuss the work of SDMAC’s Issue Groups and the legislation that SDMAC supports and opposes (*see Legislation update on next page*).

In June, a legislator staffer briefing was held at Naval Base San Diego. In July, a SDMAC legislative briefing was given to Congressman Duncan Hunter followed by another briefing of Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher. A legislative panel was held at the NDIA Small Business forum at Raytheon. In mid-August, Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox was briefed by members of the Legislative Committee, followed by another briefing of Congresswoman Susan Davis on August 24.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee, under the guidance of chair Alan Baca, implemented a new SDMAC membership category. The new category is for students enrolled in local two-year and four-year colleges and universities. This new membership category is offered complimentary to the students so long as they remain students in good standing at their schools. Student members will also be eligible for military rates at all SDMAC events. This new membership category will be particularly attractive to veterans who are enrolled in our local schools as well as to the students enrolled in ROTC programs. Details regarding student memberships are available on SDMAC’s website www.sdmac.org.

Efforts are presently underway by the Membership Committee to target and increase corporate memberships with SDMAC.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Programs Committee is busy with preparations for the upcoming December 9th Annual Achievement Awards. Terry Magee, the immediate SDMAC Past President, is chairing this year’s event. Guest speakers are in the process of being confirmed. Pete Hedley, chair of the Nominating Committee, is in the process of obtaining nominations for the Awards from SDMAC’s Board of Directors and general membership. If you would like further information about the Awards, please contact Pete Hedley or Larry Blumberg.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Annette Peck, chair of the Public Relations Committee, initiated the commencement of SDMAC’s “Quarterly News Update for Members” as a means of increasing communications and keeping members informed as to the actions taken by the organization’s Issue Groups, Committees, Board of Directors, and members in furtherance of SDMAC’s mission within the community. Going forward, the Updates will continue to provide in-depth coverage of SDMAC activities.

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SDMAC Committee Updates — continued**PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE— continued**

SDMAC members will be offered free on-line subscriptions to the *San Diego Daily Transcript*. Members will be able to access SDDT's web site to read the latest news provided. Further details as to how members can start their subscription will be forthcoming shortly.

Biographies of SDMAC Board members and Advisory Board members have been posted on SDMAC's website under the "About Us" section. This allows members, legislators, and military officials to view the knowledge base brought to the organization.

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 has been referred to 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. The bill was passed by the California State Assembly. On August 27, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the bill, and on September 2, the Senate passed it. It is now in enrollment and will be sent to the Governor for signature. **SDMAC supports this bill. SDMAC had sent letters regarding our position to Senator Christine Kehoe (Chair of the State Appropriations Committee) and to California Senate President Pro Tem Darell Steinberg in August 2009.**

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 shore land protection act and establish a commission to study revision of the shore land protection act. **Status of bill:** Was introduced in 2/09. On 3/9/09, hearing on the bill was canceled at the request of its author, Senator Kehoe. **SDMAC supports this bill.**

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Legislation SDMAC is Currently Tracking — continued

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 and is undergoing Senate and Assembly Floor analyses as of 9/09. **SDMAC supports this bill.**

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

Get Involved with Membership Growth

SDMAC is proud of its growth in membership over the years as members provide the lifeblood of any organization. We need to continue our focus on growing our membership as SDMAC continues its mission of supporting the interests of the military, their quality of life issues, and the defense industry community in the San Diego area. You can assist us in growing our membership by taking the time to discuss SDMAC with business associates, by bringing potential members (free of charge) to one of our monthly breakfast meetings, and by encouraging them to join SDMAC.

The following corporate and individual members have joined or renewed their memberships since June 1, 2009:

Corporate Members: AT&T Government Solutions, AUSGAR Technologies Inc., Booz Allen Hamilton, Classic Chariots Used Cars and Trucks, Defense Web Technologies, Echo Pacific Construction, Inc., Festivities Catering, Hawthorne Machinery Co., Innovative Commercial Environments, International Manufacturing Solutions, Miramar Federal Credit Union, Novonics, San Diego Chargers, San Diego Daily Transcript, Sperry West, X-Feds

Individual Members: Charles Burnett, Guy Close, Keith Coe, Bob Ekstrom, Tom Erickson, Steve Fiebing, Alan Gary, Charles Grisham, Kate Harrington, Tom Hernandez, Mike Houston, Brian Huth, Neal Kusumoto, Gwen Notestine, Annette Peck, Derry Pence, John Pioli, Lou Smith, Jeremy Terk, Sean Wang, Keith Watkins

SDMAC's San Diego Military Economic Impact Study

SDMAC has started the process of updating our highly successful 2008 San Diego Military Economic Impact Study. The 2008 Study quantified the impact of military spending on the regional economy of San Diego County using federal spending data on procurement, salaries, base expenditures, and retirement spending. The 2008 Study determined that San Diego is the #1 county recipient of Dept of Defense spending in the nation, and that the San Diego military will contribute approximately \$24.5 billion to the regional economy and account for 27% of its employment.

An initial meeting was held in May among SDMAC members John Nersesian, Terry Magee, Larry Blumberg, and Annette Peck, and members of Export Access. Export Access is part of UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and also performed the research for the 2008 Economic Impact Study.

The upcoming study will be a complete update of the 2008 Military Economic Impact Study and will include not only updated statistical information, but military and corporate updates as well. The target date for publication of the new study is January 2010.

Please contact Annette Peck, SDMAC Public Information/Relations Chair, with any questions or comments about the SDMAC Quarterly News Update at www.annettepeck@san.rr.com.