PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

I am extremely honored to serve as the president of the board of directors at The San Diego Military Advisory Council for 2020. SDMAC has a long tradition of being San Diego’s strongest advocate for our local military, and I am very proud to be a part of this organization. I also recognize that it is our superb membership who make it possible for SDMAC to fulfill our mission supporting and promoting the mutual business and other interests of the military, and the defense community in the San Diego area.

I also want to thank my predecessor Cliff Cho for his leadership in 2019. With Cliff at the helm SDMAC saw our membership grow, our outreach expand, and our voice become louder. Cliff now becomes the chair of our Executive Committee where he will continue to help shape our future.

SDMAC is also working to connect better with our members, and I offer to you that we want your ideas and involvement in what we do. Please let me or any of our board members know what you think we can do to make SDMAC even better.

Thank you,
Chris Humphreys
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

2019 was a great year for SDMAC! We enjoyed very strong attendance at our monthly breakfast events and our membership had very strong growth. I want to thank all of you that support us as members, and we welcome your ideas how we can best serve our military community as well as our members.

In 2019 we remained involved in numerous issues impacting our military community. These issues are at all levels of government; we proudly supported national legislation on military housing improvements and veteran issues, we worked issues at a state level including improving spouse employment opportunities and helping retiring and transitioning veterans stay in California; and we worked local issues including the redevelopment of the NAVWAR headquarters, transportation, housing, and child care. We worked hard to build strong relationships with our elected officials as well as numerous business, university, and community leaders. Our 2019 Military Economic Impact Study (MEIS), with its focus on our community and the economic importance of the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) during its transition from SPAWAR to NAVWAR, again shows that the defense sector, and all its related activities, is San Diego’s most important economic driver, responsible for 1 of every 5 jobs in our region!

Our goals for 2020 include continuing to engage our elected officials and community leaders to maximize their support for our local military. We are focused on supporting the NAVWAR Headquarters redevelopment and improving the employment opportunities for military spouses in California. We also want to strengthen our relationship with our membership by offering new venues and topics to better meet the interests of our members.

Thank you for supporting SDMAC as we work to support our local military!

Sincerely,

Mark Balmert

REASONS TO BE PROUD OF 2019
Our membership is the key to our ability to achieve our mission, and I look forward to your participation in 2020.”

Finance:
Chair - Vic Ramsauer
2019 was a strong year for SDMAC finances. Our major income areas exceeded plan and our expenses were kept in check. This resulted in net income exceeding plan. Additionally, we completed an internal financial audit with very strong results. We are working now on the 2020 budget and expect to have that completed soon.

Legislative:
Chair - Rob Pennoyer
SDMAC’s Legislative Committee continues to evaluate legislation at the local, state, and national levels. We proudly worked to support DoD’s efforts to improve employment opportunities for military spouses and will continue that effort in 2020. We supported pro-veteran national legislation as well as legislation that strengthens military housing conditions. Locally, we continue to meet with our elected officials to explain the importance of our region to national security as well as the local economy.

Membership Committee:
Chair - Chris Humphreys / Paul Cassani
The Membership Committee continues to grow the number of SDMAC corporate and individual members. This year our membership was up over 15 percent and our efforts to better connect with members is making a difference. The committee really appreciates the efforts by all to bring potential members to our events!

Military Family Issues:
Chair - Ray Roth
In 2019 the committee participated in many activities aimed at improving military spouse employment. SDMAC assisted “Blue Star Families” with promoting their annual ”Lifestyle Survey.” Our ongoing support of the Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ), a U.S. Chamber of Commerce initiative of its 'Hiring Our Heroes' program included contributing at quarterly meetings and promoting local events.

SDMAC cooperates on related issues with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Defense, Veterans & Military committee. We continue efforts to seek change to California's restrictive portability of professional/vocational credentials/certifications laws that severely affect military spouses transferring in with such qualifications.

In 2020 we will expand our outreach and cooperation with more local organizations who share the mission of improving life for our service members, their families and veterans.

Bases and Infrastructure:
Chair - Earl Wederbrook
The Bases and Infrastructure Focus Group includes but is not limited to monitoring air, land, sea, subsurface, and electro-magnetic spectrum usage that may infringe upon or compromise military training. Currently the Committee is monitoring:
- The Kearny-Mesa Easement discussions between the city of San Diego and MCAS Miramar,
- The development of the NavWar Old Town Campus
- and the update of the MCAS Miramar AICUZ.

DoD Budget:
Chair - Matt Griesbach
The Defense Budget Committee monitored the evolving defense budget landscape throughout the year. The committee has developed a format for communicating the budget process identifying the current state of budget negotiations vs where negotiations should be in a “normal” budget cycle. This format identifies the potential need for and length of Continuing Resolutions at the end of a fiscal year and also identifies the risk of a government shutdown.

In addition, the committee reported on program funding levels throughout the process, from the President’s initial budget request to the appropriated amounts signed into law. Specific attention was paid to funding levels for defense programs important to San Diego, specifically shipbuilding.

With the government entering FY20 being funded under a Continuing Resolution, the committee reached out to government contracting experts to obtain views of the impact a CR would have to the defense programs most relevant to the San Diego region.

Economic Impact Studies:
Chair - Terry Magee / Mark Wernig
The 2019 Military Economic Impact Study was rolled out on Thursday the 10th of October, including a very detailed section on the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR). The report again demonstrated how important the military is to the economic well being of the San Diego Region, with the Military being the largest economic cluster in the Region by a factor of 2 to 1 over the next largest. Over $28 Billion direct defense dollars flowed into the region in 2019 which generated a gross regional product of $51 Billion and accounted for over 354,000 jobs.

Work has begun on the 2020 Military Economic Impact Study to be rolled out in the Fall of 2020. Sponsorship opportunities are now available.
CONTACT SDMAC
San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC) is a member-based, non-profit 501-c(6) business organization committed to preserving San Diego as the largest and most important military community in the U.S. As a member, you are supporting and promoting our local military resources and people in the defense of our nation.

PLAN TO ATTEND: SDMAC UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING SDMAC BREAKFAST EVENTS

- Tuesday, March 2nd
  Under Secretary of Defense Ellen Lord at the San Diego Convention Center
- Wednesday, March 18th
  SD Padres’ Erik Greupner at the Admiral Kidd Club

SDMAC ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER
- Thursday, June 4th at the Admiral Kidd Club

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