

MDSA

MCALESTER DEFENSE SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

2021 FALL MCALESTER STAMPEDE



PROJECTS

- Haywood Rail Improvement Project
- Energy Security and Resiliency
- Hypersonic Missile Mission



SCHEDULED EVENTS

November 1st, 2021: Travel day

November 2nd, 2021:

- 1:30 pm - Mayor Browne and Jessica Gregg brief Congressman Markwayne Mullin on projects.
- 2:00 pm - Mayor Browne and Jessica Gregg brief Senator Jim Inhofe's Military Fellow on projects.
- 4:00 pm - Group Briefing
- 6:30 pm - Dinner with Congressman Markwayne Mullin
- 7:30 pm - Dinner with Senator Jim Inhofe

November 3rd, 2021:

- 8:30 am - 12:00 pm - Army Leadership meetings in the Pentagon
- 1:30 pm - Group meeting to review guidance from Army Leadership
- 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - VIP Congressional Reception

November 4th, 2021:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Congressional Meetings
- 1:00 - 1:30 pm - Kirk Ridenour's small group met with Congressman Frank Lucas
- 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Jessica Gregg's small group met with Congressman Kevin Hern
- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm - Jessica Gregg's small group met with Congresswoman Stephanie Bice
- 6:00 pm - Staff Reception at Tortilla Coast

November 5th, 2021: Travel Day

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (McAAP)

- Colonel Michael Hammond – Commander, McAAP
Mrs. Janneice Hammond, Spouse of Col. Michael Hammond
- Mr. Brian Foris – Chief of Operations Management, McAAP
- Mr. Jeff Dugan – Director of Ammunition Operations, McAAP
Mrs. Toni Dugan, Spouse of Mr. Jeff Dugan
- Mr. Brad Rutledge – Director Depot Operations, McAAP / MDSA Chairman
Mrs. Mary Jo Rutledge, Spouse of Mr. Brad Rutledge

City of McAlester

- Mr. John Browne – Mayor, City of McAlester
- Mr. Kirk Ridenour – Economic Development Director, City of McAlester / MDSS Treasurer, MDSA Treasurer
- Ms. Jayme Clifton – Community Development Director, City of McAlester / MDSA Board Member
- Ms. Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer / Administrator, City of McAlester

Community Institutions / Congressional Representatives

- Mr. Spencer Hall – Southeast Field Representative, Office of Senator Jim Inhofe
- Ms. Jessica Gregg – Executive Director, MDSS / MDSA; Commissioner, Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission
- Mr. Chris Plunkett – Executive Director, McAlester Regional Hospital Foundation

Defense Contractors

- Mr. Michael Mitchell – Chief Operations Officer, Chickasaw Nation Industries (CNI) / MDSA Member
Mrs. Michelle Mitchell – Spouse of Mr. Michael Mitchell
- Mr. Michael Guest – Director of Business Development, Choctaw Defense / MDSA Member
- Mr. Stephen Nichols – President, Choctaw Defense / MDSA Member



MCALESTER'S BACK IN D.C.

Community members from McAlester and the surrounding area (listed to the left) traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with partners in the U.S. Army and Oklahoma Delegation during the first week of November. We shared about our three projects and the desire to retain and grow defense industry jobs.

This review will address each topic, what we learned, and our next steps in achieving our goals. Enjoy!

-Jessica Gregg, Executive Director

HAYWOOD RAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Community members updated Army Leadership, Members of the Oklahoma Delegation, and their staff on the status of the Haywood Road Improvement Project and development of the Haywood Rail Improvement Project.



HAYWOOD RAIL CONTINUED

They were pleased to learn the State of Oklahoma, the City of McAlester and Pittsburg County were able to develop a partnership to fully fund the Haywood Road Improvement Project. Construction is expected to begin in Spring / Summer 2022.

We shared our intention of pursuing funding to support a similar project for rail, between Haywood and McAlester. Like the road project, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (McAAP) operates with a single access control point for rail; therefore, limiting redundancy for rail. Because of McAAP's large capacity for storage, distribution is a critical function in order to execute its mission.

The Army and Members of the Oklahoma Delegation were very supportive of our defense community's interest in repairing the rail line between Haywood and McAlester. Currently the best option for funding is through the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). The City of McAlester is planning to submit a DCIP proposal in early summer of 2022.



ENERGY SECURITY AND RESILIENCY

Community members first shared the goal of establishing energy independence by developing a microgrid ran by natural gas on McAAP at the 2019 McAlester Stampede. MDSA has since worked closely with the offices of Senator Lankford and Senator Inhofe to develop report language that would request the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior to develop studies with the goal of establishing a pilot site or sites for drilling.

At the 2021 McAlester Stampede we learned energy independence is still a priority for the Army and they are supportive of McAAP developing this needed capability. There are currently 17 Army bases across the country who have access to island able energy. From discussion, it seems the Army is interested in accessing existing natural gas lines near McAAP. The Army welcomes all forms of energy to establish independence and shared a study from the Office of Energy Initiative had taken place on base earlier in the year. We have requested a copy of the study to better understand what steps are being considered to meet our energy goals.

Ultimately, the approval of the report language (NDAA) in the FY 22 National Defense Authorization Act will determine if McAAP will be able to pursue energy independence as a pilot site. At this time the budget has been moved to a continuing resolution; while Congress discusses amendments before the NDAA can be passed.



HYPersonic MISSILE MISSION

Hypersonic missiles have been and continue to be a high profile discussion. This is because the U.S.'s adversaries have been investing billions of dollars into this new technology, with China recently having its first successful launch of their prototype. The pressure is on.

Community members first discussed the goal of McAAP storing, maintaining, and manufacturing the asset at the 2021 Virtual Stampede. We shared that we understand the Hypersonic Missile can travel faster than Mach 5 and is classified as a conventional munition. We shared our installation is the number one storage and maintenance site for conventional munitions and for bomb manufacturing; therefore, we see how we fit into supporting this mission.

Hypersonic Program Managers shared support for McAlester participating in the mission; however, they are in the very beginning stages of development and have a while before they can indicate who will be responsible for the asset.

We experienced a similar discussion at our in person Stampede. They are still on track for developing a complete asset by 2023 and are unsure where the asset will be maintained.

We learned McAAP has been assisting in multiple capacities with the development of appropriate ways to store and transport the asset.

HYPersonic CONTINUED

It was encouraging to hear the role our installation has already played in supporting the hypersonic missile mission. It was also encouraging for the Program Managers to share no other community is pursuing the opportunity to support the mission in this capacity.

Our goal is to continue to foster these relationships on both the community side and base side to ensure McAlester is included in this opportunity. New missions equal new jobs. It also provides value as growth that doesn't take away from another defense community.



ARMY LEADERSHIP

- BG Trevor Bredenkamp, Chief of Legislative Liaison
- JPEO (Armanents & Ammo) - COL Russell Hoff, PM, Close Combat Systems
- GEN Gavin Gardner - Commander, JMC (AMC)
- Mr. Daniel Glasson, Deputy Director OLDCC
- Ms. Christine Ploschke, ASA IE&E
- Ms. Carolyn Farmer, Army Hypersonic Program Office, AUR+C, Deputy Project Manager
- COL Chris Mills, Program Manager, Common Hypersonic Glide Body



OKLAHOMA DELEGATION

- Senator James M. Inhofe
- Senator James Lankford
- John Wasson, Staff Director, Senate Armed Services
- T.C. Williams, Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services
- Sam Trizza, Military Legislative Correspondent, Senator Inhofe
- Dan Holder, Military Fellow, Senator Inhofe
- Brenna Larkin, Military Legislative Assistant, Congressman Mullin
- Adam Sullivan, Military Legislative Assistant, Congressman Cole
- Jett Thomas, Military Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Bice





THANK YOU!

On behalf of the McAlester Defense Support Association and McAlester Defense Support Services board of directors, and myself we extend our most sincere thanks to the City of McAlester and our MDSA members for supporting our mission.

Without your support we wouldn't have the ability to travel to Washington D.C. to advocate on behalf of our installation. Without maintaining these critical relationships, we risk missing out on opportunities to demonstrate our community's interest in retaining and growing defense industry jobs.

The feedback we received at this year's in person event continues to validate the need for us to actively advocate. We learned the Army is helping other installations imitate what our community does, because it is so successful. How great is that? To set the example of how to advocate for your installation!

We are McAlester proud! we are Army Strong!

Thank you again, truly!

Kindest Regards,

Jessica Gregg, Executive Director

