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(A Department of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce)

In SUPPORT of S.C.R. No. 8

EOMAC Overview

The Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission (EOMAC) was formed at the behest of then Commander, Colonel James Dignan (Now, COO of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber) and the report prepared by CBD advisors at the direction of this body in 2013/14.

Col. Dignan, and now Col. Dan Sarachene, new Commander of the 910th in Trumbull County, can attest to the absolute vital nature of military advocacy if a community has any expectation to keep or expand its military missions, to include those like East Coast Missile Defense Shield (ECMD).

Up until 2015, with the commissioning of EOMAC, there was little to no military advocacy from “lake to river”, in Eastern Ohio, with little oversight over Pentagon projected projects over the near and long term, again, like ECMD, F-35, or UAV.

EOMAC leadership quickly recognized that the protraction and retraction of military missions, as controlled by the DoD, seemed to flow to those installations that were well represented in both Columbus and Capitol Hill.

A proactive approach was taken; three distinct “working groups” were created, and monthly meetings were set to discuss the military assets housed in NE/E Ohio. Those working groups were:

1. **Federal Military Value** – Group consisting of members of the local, federal delegations. Representative from 6 congressional districts were invited, with at least 4-5 in attendance at each meeting. This group was charged with exploring the status of federal dollars and missions, both currently in law, or being discussed for the future.
2. **Ohio Military Support** – six local House districts were invited, along with three senatorial districts. Tasked with identifying what can be done in Columbus to better expand and defend the installations/missions located in Eastern Ohio.

3. **Supply Chain/Government Contractor** – This working group consisted of local and national businesses that either have federal contracts tied to the DoD, want federal contracts tied to the DoD, and/or benefit substantially from the economic impact of the installations in their back yards.
4. Not a working group, but, USAF's P4 Program (public-public, public-private).

East Coast Missile Defense System - Talking Points

- 2013, Black and Veatch awarded contract to select "Preferred Site" from primarily and environmental standpoint.
- Environmental included conditions, generally.
- Originally as proposed, 4. Now down to three potential locations:
 - o Fort Drum, NY
 - o Fort Custer, MI
 - o Camp Ravenna in Trumbull and Portage Counties Ohio.
- Proposed 4-5 billion dollar project, the estimate several years ago.
- Huge overall economic impact.
- Hundreds of short term construction and engineering jobs.
- Over 100-permanent jobs.
- Large influx of Federal, DoD dollars.
- An overview of the report shows we are well-positioned as a State and Region.
- There needs to be more overall effort, this Resolution is a solid start.
- MI has invested over \$500,000.00 on lobbying efforts so far.
- NY has launched letter campaigns and has solid lobbying through their federal delegation.
- EOMAC managed to drum up hundred of letters, directly and indirectly.
- Everyone from union leaders to steel executives.
- We will keep doing our part as a region, but the time is now for Columbus to realize the golden opportunity in front of it.
- Please show support and pass S.C.R. 08

