



Marine Corps Installations Command Rolls Out 'Base of the Future' Initiative

ALBANY, Ga. – The Marine Corps has its eye on innovation; and modernizing facilities, technology and services will lead the way to a more flexible and resilient fighting force. Installation-werX (I-werX), a supporting branch to the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Modernization and Development Directorate (G-7), held an inaugural Base of the Future (BoF) Symposium on Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany in early November 2017 to kickoff this process.

During the three-day event, I-werX leveraged insights, perspectives, and expertise from an ecosystem of private industry, academia, and local, state, and federal government personnel to generate alternative ideas to improve installation services and to develop a BoF concept.

The BoF concept brings together the power of ideas and community partners to imagine and re-imagine the application of emerging state-of-the-art technology, processes and efficiencies to the future of Marine Corps bases to ensure the readiness and resiliency of our fighting force.

The event opened with welcoming remarks by Col. James C. Carroll III, Commanding Officer, MCLB Albany, who thanked MCICOM for allowing the first symposium to be hosted at his facility.

"I believe we are the best installation to host this symposium because of the next generation steps this base is taking," he explained. "We have already begun heating and cooling buildings via geothermal energy and with a Department of the Navy partnership with Georgia Power, we have a solar panel farm that assists us as a back-up energy source. We are already making strides in this area, but we can always be doing more and that's why we need your ideas."

Colonel Ché Bolden, Assistant Chief of Staff, MCICOM Office of Modernization and Development echoed these comments in his welcome briefing by reminding participants of the deficit we face in coming years and asked everyone to think outside of current constraints to bring new possibilities that can help bridge the gap. "With a combination of industry and practical experience in this room, we have the basic tools to develop new and creative ways to deliver services."

John Reed of Reed Charters, a small Veteran-owned business, presented a business case analysis conducted in June of 2017 on Stanford University's business and infrastructure management operations. The discussion captured how a "city within a city model" operates and aimed to open the aperture for attendees as they re-imagined the aspects of a Base of the Future. The analysis highlighted renewable energy opportunities that reduce electricity use, food and dining operations that reduce food waste and optimize food purchases and alternative transportation trends like ride-share, biking, walkway access, and public transportation, reducing on-site parking and increasing opportunities for living on a campus setting. These findings were the first of hundreds of potential opportunities proposed throughout the week for Marine Corps base modernization that would result in increased cost savings and efficiencies using currently available emerging technologies and capabilities.

Aided by facilitators, the disparate group of influencers and thought-leaders were split into five groups to enable the exchange of ideas - "controlled collisions" - focused on installation protection,



information systems, Marine Corps community services, logistics support and public works to uncover opportunities that will enhance both home station and deployed readiness. After two days of approaching base challenges through a different lens than the typical Marine Corps planning process, attendees were able to develop tangible solutions to some of the installation's toughest challenges. Some of the solutions included clean slate buildings that could serve a variety of purposes (to easily accommodate potential changes in services), IT centered solutions that could aid physical security by adding additional virtual levels of security, and the desire to house solutions on clouds with the opportunity to access services and information via applications. The working group exercises helped to understand the similarities and differences between bases and stations to determine whether or not these solutions are scalable and repeatable or will need to be more customized to support the unique populations working and living on Marine Corps bases and stations.

Organizations including the Albany Area YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club of Albany, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce and the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission all participated and provided a local community perspective of their interactions with the base and hopes they had for the future.

"Albany's long-term, strong and supportive relationship with Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany has provided for innovative partnerships, programs and initiatives between the base and the community that have resulted in successes for both," said Bárbara Rivera Holmes, president and CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are glad to have participated in this important symposium, to have brainstormed with other partners and subject-matter experts, and look forward to continuing to explore the possibilities in Albany and across the Marine Corps."

Companies like SANDBOXX, IBM and SIM CI were able to provide perspective about the various applications that currently exist and ones that would be developed and even customized by an installation to provide some of the base services discussed. Additional industry and academic organizations in attendance included Battelle, AECOM, Red Duke Strategies LLC, Association of Defense Communities, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Booz Allen Hamilton, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, and EDF.

Lieutenant General Michael Dana, Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, Major General Vincent Coglianese, Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command, and Brigadier General Dale Alford, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East were all in attendance the final day of the Symposium for an outbrief covering the visions of the future developed in each of the five topic areas. The general officers continue to show support for driving this initiative forward.

A second iteration of the Symposium is being planned for May 2018.