

Natick Science and Technology Board

Minutes of the 20 November 2008 Meeting

1. BOARD COMPOSITION:

Dr. Marilyn M. Freeman (Chair)
Director, Natick Soldier Research, Development &
Engineering Center - Present

BG R Mark Brown
Commanding General, Natick Soldier Systems Center – Present

BG Peter N. Fuller, PEO Soldier - Present

COL Kevin Keenan
Commander USA Research Institute of Environmental Medicine – Present

Dr. Barbara A. Avellini
Director, Navy Clothing & Textile Research Facility – Not Present

LTC Daryl Harger
Project Manager
Force Sustainment Systems – Present

LTC Dari Otto
Garrison Commander, Soldier Systems Center Garrison – Not Present
Represented by Ms Evelyn Zicko, Acting Deputy Garrison Commander, Soldier
Systems Center Garrison

Mr. Carol Brewton
Chief Clothing Designer, US Coast Guard Clothing Design & Technical Office –
Present

The Honorable Daniel O'Connell
Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic
Development – Present

The Honorable Kevin M. Burke
Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security – Not
Present
Represented by Mr. Paul M. Connelly, Deputy Undersecretary of Homeland
Security

Mr. James D. Shields
President/CEO, Draper Laboratory – Not Present
Represented by Dr. Leonard Polizzotto, Principal Director
Marketing & Strategic Business Development

Mr. Patrick Larkin
Director, John Adams Innovation Institute - Present

Mr. Robert L. Culver
President/CEO, Mass Development – Not Present
Represented by Mr. Richard A. Montuori, Executive VP
Devens Operations & Defense Sector Initiatives

Dr. Jack M. Wilson
President, University of Massachusetts – Not Present
Represented by Mr. Jeffery Brancato, Associate Vice President for.
Economic Development, UMass President's Office

Dr, Stephen A. Jamison
Chairman, Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative - Present

Mr. Michael J. Ahearn
Director, Integrated Logistics, SBC – Not Present

Mr. A. Theodore Welte, CCE`
President, MetroWest Chamber of Commerce - Present

2. Agenda: Attachment 1

- The meeting was brought to order by Dr. Freeman
- This was the fourth meeting of this Board.

3. Opening Comments

a. Dr. Marilyn Freeman:

– Welcomed the Board to its fourth Board meeting. She expressed deep appreciation for the Board member's time being invested in this endeavor. Introductions of the Board and attendees were made.

- Provided that Secretary Kevin Burke has been invited to and accepted to serve as a member of the Board. Because the Governor's Anti-crime Council, to which Secretary Burke is a principal member, had a schedule change conflicting with our Board meeting, he could not be here with us today. Deputy Undersecretary Connelly is here in his stead.

- Proposed a motion to the Board to accept Secretary Burke as a full member of the Board. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- thanked BG Brown for his support of and valuable contributions to the creation of the Board and progress to date. She, on behalf of the Board,

wished him success in his new assignment in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

- Welcomed BG Fuller, who was assuming Command of the Natick Soldier Systems Center the next day, 21 November, 2008.
- Invited opening comments from the Board members:
 - Secretary O'Connell – Welcomed BG Fuller, wished BG Brown well. Secretary O'Connell offered that Governor Patrick was fully supportive of the initiatives of the Board to the extent as to invest 25% of his Secretariat staff to the effort, and he, Secretary O'Connell, was very pleased to be part of it.
 - BG Brown- Expressed that he was pleased to have been part of the process and in his new responsibilities, NSSC and PEO Soldier remained in his lane and that he will continue to advocate for these organizations. He has seen an immeasurable motion to partnering between academia, industry, and MA advancing local interest and more importantly helping soldiers. The result is a continued rationale for having an active component presence in New England.
 - BG Fuller – Shared that he was a MA native and felt a strong obligation to support the Soldier while supporting the community/MA.

b. Dr Freeman

- Provided a preview of the future soldier of 2030 and the on-going effort in developing a concept of what the future soldier capabilities is envisioned to possess. The concept was to be discussed at the upcoming Army Science Conference. Dr Freeman provided a notional photo of what the future soldier might look like.
- Listed the numerous changes of personnel in major leadership positions that interact with our local organization.
- Offered that the two main agenda items were a review of a detailed Business Plan establishing the Center for Soldier Innovation (CSI) and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program discussion and potential relationship to the CSI. The objective is to define the path forward for the Center for Soldier Innovation.

c. Presentations made with hand outs posted on the web site.

- STEM:
 - Ms Donna Bulger, NSRDEC Workforce Development
Army Regional STEM Coordinator
 - and Mr. Keven Thurston, Executive Director, Metrowest
STEM Education Network
- Center for Soldier Innovation: Mr. Frank Serna, Director,
Tactical Systems Program Office, Draper Laboratory

4. Discussion:

STEM:

What is being asked of the Board?

To be willing partners; success mandates partners and support from all the organizations on the Natick Soldier Systems Center, not merely the Natick Research, Development, and Engineering Center; that for the Natick Soldier Systems Center to remain viable for the next 30 years (to the future), the MA and the region must remain active partners for it to happen. **All Agreed. Directed Action: Update progress next Board Meeting.**

CSI:

It is hard to overstate the industrial base of these programs. Many valuable products have only one or two manufacturers. It is better for national security to expand the base.

The initial focus of this CSI should be to fill a gap or need. Spin outs should be for the longer term view.

Mr Connelly offered: Wherever it is possible, the CSI should partner with the National Guard, fire fighters and police as potential support in early “test beds”.

In light of scarce resources, funding streams beyond the State should be explored.

Secretary O’Connell indicated he was very impressed with the progress so far and very supportive. He indicated that he had discussed the possibility of this Center with Congressman Markey. He provided that the State’s independent agencies and the Life Sciences Initiative are all potential sources of funding and should be explored; and MA is willing to be a major player to kick off the CSI, but also advised that other New England states be offered an opportunity to participate making the Center a regional project. As a follow on, Secretary O’Connell asked that representatives of the various independent agencies come together as soon as possible and discuss options of bringing this proposal to their individual Boards. He indicated that the Governor expects significant progress. The Business Plan for CSI can serve as a basis for proposal to these various Boards. Develop an agenda aligned with MA research clusters and the impact this might have over the next 5 years. Secretary O’Connell asked that the respond to his direction come back to him directly.

In light of the very positive and supportive response from the Board generally and Secretary O’Connell specifically to the CSI initiative, Draper Laboratory offered to assume the risk of hiring a Director for the Center for Soldier Innovation with the anticipation that funding would be forthcoming.

5. Directed Actions for the next Board Meeting:

- Update progress of the STEM effort.
- Update progress in securing funding for the CSI as well as status of securing a Director to the Center.

9. Next Meeting:

Schedule for February/March 2009 time frame.

**AGENDA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD
20 November 2008**

1030-1055 Opening Remarks:

- Dr. Marilyn Freeman
- BG Brown
- BG Fuller
- Secretary O'Connell
- Secretary Burke

1055-1100 Administrative Actions:

- Minutes of 24 June 2008 Accepted
- Board Member Addition – Secretary Kevin M. Burke, MA
Secretary for Public Safety and Security

**1100-1145 Getting MA on the Science, Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics (STEM) Map**

1145-1220 Directed Actions from 24 June 2008 Meeting:

- Center for Soldier Innovation (CSI) – Draper Laboratory

1220-1230 Executive Session

1230 Meeting Adjourns