

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD WORK SESSION

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Sierra Vista Campus
Governing Board Room 301
Work Session
5:00 p.m.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. DiPeso called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. Dennis Nelson
Mr. Tim Quinn
Mrs. Jane Strain

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.01 Fort Huachuca Briefing

Mr. Jeff Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Intelligence Center & Fort Huachuca, provided the Governing Board with a briefing of Fort Huachuca history and future missions; highlights include:

Mr. Jennings shared a video on the history and importance of the location of Fort Huachuca sitting in a valley with a nice high electronic bowl that prevents energy from coming into it from population centers like Tucson. All the energy is contained within this bowl which is about 2500 square miles bounded by the mountain ranges, making the environment critical for essential electronic testing. The equipment tested is critical for current and future military missions. Fort Huachuca is one of the most modern of all the Army's installations, where 8000 men and women are working to find new ways of protecting America. Fort Huachuca is a prime testing and training facility and is headquarters to the army communication command and army intelligence training community.

Mr. Jennings also discussed the importance of the restricted airspace around the Fort and how this restriction also lends to the environment that is essential for testing and training. With the testing needs, the Fort desires to recruit appropriately trained technicians; almost 100 vacancies per year. In discussions with Dr. Rottweiler, Cochise College will explore ways to create a certification curriculum to train soldiers during their last months as they are transitioning out of the service. The training would create opportunities for entry level civilian positions in areas such as basic electronics, CDL, health related fields, and continuing education toward an associate's degree.

Dr. Rottweiler explained a request that he put before the Governor and the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) to visit Fort Huachuca in which he submitted a skills center workforce accelerator opportunity proposal for Cochise College, the Fort, and Cochise County.

Mr. Jennings also spent some time discussing the development of a non-kinetic multidomain operational range on Fort Huachuca. The range will cost \$16M, which is \$22M less than a regular rifle range. There has never been one in the history of the Army. The completion is expected for 2026-2027.

Dr. Rottweiler expressed the key part of the presentation is that he wanted the board to understand what's happening on Fort Huachuca and how the college can best leverage the asset that is Fort Huachuca then see what the college can do to support it. The Fort has a need for research development and testing which requires employees, new businesses, new industries coming in that want to utilize the test range. The college needs to ask how it can best position itself to support their mission. Cochise College can provide the needed training to prepare a workforce to work in this industry, which brings in \$3B a year in economic impact in Arizona. That's what the taxpayers need to hear. It moves the county forward and keeps it vibrant.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiPeso adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant Office of the President

Mr. Dennis Nelson, Secretary of the Governing Board