

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Richard R. Searle, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Member

Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator
Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Ruben Miranda, Internal Services Administrator

Attendees: Kevin Peterson, President, Fort Huachuca 50
Lucian L. Niemeyer, President, Niemeyer Group, LLC

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Possible discussion and direction regarding a presentation from Consultant Lucian Niemeyer on his current efforts to identify and pursue opportunities for growth and investments for the various missions of Fort Huachuca.

Vice-Chairman Call introduced Mr. Peterson and Mr. Niemeyer to the Board and County Administration. He said they were instrumental in the missions to keep Fort Huachuca active to avoid losing missions to other bases in the nation.

Mr. Niemeyer introduced himself and shared some of his background. He noted that his business focuses on preserving individual mission on Fort Huachuca. He added that currently he is working on updating the strategic plan for this project in order to refocus all parties involved.

Supervisor English requested to view the original strategic plan.

Mr. Niemeyer said he would ensure she received a copy. He stated that water issues are critical, as well as enhancing the military value on Fort Huachuca.

Vice-Chairman Call said another part of the effort to keep water issues relevant was the creation of the Cochise County Recharge Network.

Mr. Niemeyer said he was working with several local groups to ensure water source management issues receive federal attention.

Chairman Searle asked what other issues Mr. Niemeyer focused on other than water.

Mr. Niemeyer said his focus was also on airspace issues and the ability to use local resources to enhance certain air related missions on Fort Huachuca.

Mr. Peterson said that the electronic proving ground and restricted airspace made Fort Huachuca a perfect place for the military intelligence and air community.

Mr. Niemeyer said he was currently working on providing tours for more of the Department of Defense officials to get their support on bringing more missions to Fort Huachuca.

Supervisor English asked if regional military agencies had been asked if they could use Fort Huachuca for training.

Mr. Niemeyer said that there was an alliance that researched commonalities of all regional military bases to ensure duplications were not an issue.

Vice-Chairman Call asked what the worst case scenario was regarding Fort Huachuca at this point.

Mr. Niemeyer said that the Fort was not in danger of completely closing down, but local entities did have to continue their efforts to keep missions in Cochise County and find new ways to bring more missions here.

Vice-Chairman Call asked if the County should focus on expanding the restricted airspace.

Mr. Niemeyer said that the focus has to be on how to use what the Fort already has. He recommended the focus be placed on establishing safe flying zones to enhance current missions.

Mr. Miranda said that the airports in the County are already being used by companies like Northrup Gruman to fly and test unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

Mr. Niemeyer said that one concern the County could address is the infrastructure needed to bring more missions not only to Fort Huachuca, but also County airports.

Vice-Chairman Call asked if the proximity to the border was a concern for those thinking about bringing more missions to the Fort.

Mr. Niemeyer said that border proximity is not an issue and has not impacted military testing. He added that adding more facilities and another airfield and runway would be helpful to bringing more missions to the Fort.

The Board agreed that investing in infrastructure was important, but needed to know

detailed costs for the projects Mr. Niemeyer was suggesting.

The Board thanked Mr. Niemeyer for his briefing and asked to be kept updated in future discussions regarding missions on Fort Huachuca.

The Board directed staff to work with Mr. Niemeyer to come up with costs for infrastructure needs.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlathe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board