

CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021



craneregionaldefensegroup.org

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Crane Regional Defense Group (CRDG) is to preserve the strategic value of Crane by supporting outreach and legislative initiatives that protect military installation's potential to bring economic growth to Southern Indiana.



Key Leader Series, Aug. 2021



Key Leader Series, Nov. 2021



Connect to Crane, Oct. 2021



Connect to Crane, Oct. 2021



Key Leader Series, Aug. 2021



Connect to Crane, Oct. 2021



Key Leader Series, Nov. 2021



Connect to Crane, Oct. 2021

BACKGROUND

The White River basin of southwestern Indiana is home to Naval Support Activity Crane, the nation's third largest naval installation. As the largest employer in the area with more than 5,500 employees and over \$3 Billion in annual economic activity, Crane is among our most valuable assets in the region. NSA Crane and Lake Glendora Test Facility play a vital role in equipping our men and women in uniform and serve as an essential economic driver for South Central Indiana.

Local and military leaders recognize that the mutual wellbeing of Crane and communities surrounding the installation is critical for the continued growth of our defense economy and ensuring that we develop talent to meet the base's workforce needs. Neighboring communities have an obligation to create a supportive environment in order for Crane to continue its vital work.

The CRDG is a result of a multi-year effort with multiple committees and organizations coming together to establish a framework to best support Crane and the surrounding communities. The following milestones explain how CRDG came into existence.

2017: Join Land Use Study

In 2017, an NSA Crane Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was completed to provide observations about the state of communications between Crane and the communities surrounding the installation. The JLUS offered detailed implementation plans and strategies for improving the public's understanding and awareness of NSA Crane and Lake Glendora Test Facility (LGTF) and improving Crane's understanding and awareness of community initiatives.

2018: White River Military Coordination Alliance

The White River Military Coordination Alliance was formed in 2018 to strengthen the relationship between Crane and the community. The purpose of the 24-member alliance is to promote community growth, support the military missions of Crane, and establish effective, timely means of communication between the community and Crane to coordinate opportunities and address concerns.

The Alliance is comprised of state and local government officials, regional and local economic development officials, and Crane representatives.

The Alliance works to promote community growth, support the military missions of Crane, and establish effective, timely means of communication between the community and Crane to coordinate opportunities and address concerns.

2020: Crane Regional Defense Group

In 2020, the Crane Regional Defense Group was established as a subcommittee of the White River Military Coordination Alliance to expand grassroots community support and advocate for Crane at the local and federal level. This committee came as a result of a recommendation from the 2017 JLUS for a specific task force to be formed to advocate on behalf of Crane and the communities and businesses it supports at the state and federal level.

CRDG is a citizen-led committee established through partnerships between chambers of commerce, county councils, financial institutions and local business leaders, and championed by the Southern Indiana Business Alliance (SIBA). Utilizing SIBA allows expanded community support for Crane beyond those who currently serve as members of the Alliance. Institutions represented on the committee were nominated by the Alliance's stakeholder committee and confirmed by the full Alliance.

The committee formed its objectives, initiatives and bylaws after extensive peer research, focusing on similar organizations throughout the country that support Naval Warfare Centers and Army Ammunition plants. Advisors observed activities and events held by these organizations, learned about the membership structure, dues and financial statements, and how their board of directors operate. This research, combined with the specific expertise of the founding CRDG members, formed the overall structure and foundation for CRDG as it stands today.

CRDG's mission is to preserve the strategic value of Crane by supporting local outreach and legislative initiatives that protect military installations in the region and state, and leverage the installation's potential to bring economic growth to Southern Indiana.

CRDG OBJECTIVES

Educate and Inform	Educate and inform the businesses, citizens and governments of the region about the economic and cultural benefits of a strong military presence in the region and the importance of supporting regional infrastructure.
Support Jobs	Support the expansion of technical and industrial jobs across the full life cycle in Research, Development, Acquisition, Production, Logistics, Depot, Demilitarization, defense-related opportunities as well as the overall growth and diversity of the defense economy in our region.
Build Consensus	Provide leadership to facilitate coordination and build consensus on key projects with various entities who have similar interests in maintaining a healthy and stable community, economy and DoD installations in our area.
Promote Defense	Serve as a catalyst to assist other government and private organizations in promoting the Logistics, Depot and Production assets at CAAA and the Science and Technology assets at NSWC Crane and in the larger Indiana Uplands communities.

GOVERNANCE

Our citizen-led committee has been established through partnerships between chambers of commerce, county councils, financial institutions and local business leaders.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Kent Parisien - Chair of CRDG
First Savings Bank

Kevin Sparks
Crane Credit Union

Shance Sizemore - Secretary/Treasurer
Bedford Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Quyle
Radius Indiana

Carlos Gaitani
TRISTAR

Nancy Eckerle
Jasper Chamber of Commerce

Erin Predmore
The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Kim Box - Staff
Radius Indiana

ADVISORY BOARD

Matt Craig
Radius Indiana

Phil Smith
NSWC Crane

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

What an impactful inaugural year it has been!

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Crane Regional Defense Group was formed to foster the growth of economic prosperity in southern Indiana. Seven passionate individuals representing local business and industry came together to create this committee from scratch, utilizing the knowledge from advisors, research into other, similar organizations, industry best practices and feedback from Crane officials on the installation's needs.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair during this very eventful first year. The events and activities our group has been able to execute despite these trying times of illness and distancing is an accomplishment in itself.

Our Key Leader Series events, held quarterly, have already brought together more than 100 individuals from defense, state and local government, small business and other relevant industries. Additionally, the Connect to Crane speed networking event provided an avenue for local small businesses to create relationships and potential business partnerships with Crane and their prime contractors.

In just one year we have also welcomed nearly 20 new members, with a goal of 40 by the end of 2022. Those members range from local economic development organizations, defense contractors, and local small businesses. With a 5-tiered membership structure, we are proud and excited to welcome members of all sizes and from varying industries. The benefits that coincide with these membership levels offer opportunities for networking, influence, learning and collaboration.

Although our first year had its challenges, we have made some incredible strides that will position us for further growth as we head into 2022. There are big plans in place for the future of CRDG and I'm proud to be a part of the journey. If you aren't already, I encourage you to become a member and join the experience.

Very respectfully,

Kent Parisien
Chair of Crane Regional Defense Group
Executive Vice President / Area President First Savings Bank



Kent Parisien | Chair of CRDG

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Influence the agenda as thought leaders during collaborative events with Army or Navy leadership, NSA Crane installation command, federal, state, local and community leaders.

Learn early and often via access to key regional stakeholders, decision makers, influencers and consultants, including direct briefings on the activities both inside and outside the NSA Crane gates.

Network with Crane commands, other government agencies and organizations, federal, State, local jurisdiction, business and community leaders.

Stay informed of the Defense activities inside and outside the gate in the Indiana Uplands region.

Shape the future through CRDG priority initiatives in areas including mission priorities, economic diversification, workforce development, higher education, and infrastructure improvements.

Work together in partnership with government, industry and military leaders to accelerate the economic and community development of Indiana Uplands.

Succeed as influential members supporting high-priority initiatives with impacts for local, state, regional and national communities of interest.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Level	One Star ★	Two Star ★ ★	Three Star ★ ★ ★	Four Star ★ ★ ★ ★	Five Star ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Investment	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$5,000

BECOME A MEMBER IN 3 SIMPLE STEPS

- 1

Complete the membership application form at craneregionaldefensegroup.org.
- 2

Receive an invoice via email and complete payment.
- 3

Start supporting local outreach and legislative initiatives that preserve the strategic value of Crane and bring economic growth to Southern Indiana.

LEVEL

2021 MEMBERS

Five Star



Four Star



Three Star



Two Star



BD Blackwell Consulting
Jasper Chamber of Commerce

One Star



geoConvergence LLC
Greater Chamber of Bloomington
Resultant LLC
Raytheon Technologies
Scientia LLC
The Mill
Warrant Technologies LLC

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

KEY LEADER SERIES

CRDG's Key Leader Series events take place quarterly to provide members with the opportunity to hear from influential keynote speakers, network with other members, and gain exposure to Crane commands and other industry leaders.

Q3 2021

CRDG hosted its first Key Leader Series event August 12 at WestGate Academy to announce the group's formation and provide attendees with an overview of its mission, objectives and membership structure. Dr. Angie Lewis, Technical Director at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, served as the keynote speaker for this quarter's luncheon, and provided updates about NSA Crane. She emphasized the envied reputation that Crane carries in the naval surface warfare community and expressed her excitement for CRDG and its potential as a group to preserve the strategic value of Crane by supporting local outreach and legislative initiatives.

"We've seen significant defense industry growth and development throughout this region from physical facilities such as WestGate Academy to a steady increase in workforce and company relocation," said Lewis. "The Crane Regional Defense Group will be an essential partner as we work to build on this momentum and continue success."

Q4 2021

The second Key Leader Series event November 10, also at WestGate Academy, featured Col. Vasquez, Commanding Officer at Crane Army Ammunition Activity. Col. Vasquez became the 20th commander of Crane Army in a change of command ceremony on July 13. In her address to CRDG members, she expressed her excitement to work with CAAA's civilian workforce and eagerness to contribute to projects on the horizon aimed at modernizing and improving the activity. Additionally, she spoke on CAAA's focus on their workforce, providing opportunities for diversity, inclusion and skill improvement.

"Crane is its surrounding communities, and we would not be as successful without our people and organizations like CRDG," said Col. Vasquez. "I am thankful for the opportunity to not only introduce you to the great things happening inside the gates but also open up the two-way line of communication to continue to expand our relationship and strengthen our partnership."

CONNECT TO CRANE

In October 2021, CRDG hosted the inaugural Connect to Crane networking event at WestGate Academy to provide small business owners the opportunity to connect with government and industry leaders supporting NSWC Crane.

Intimate, one-on-one sessions offered small business attendees the opportunity to network and learn best practices, showcase their products and services, and increase their understanding of the federal procurement process.

The Crane Regional Defense Group plans to host additional Connect to Crane events as a pillar of the organization's focus on leveraging Crane's potential to bring economic growth to Southern Indiana. Small businesses and local industries are vital to mission success and CRDG has committed to providing opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

PARTNER INFORMATION WEBSITE

In June, CRDG launched craneregionaldefensegroup.com. The website allows current and potential citizens and leaders in local finance and business to find out more about our mission, how to become a member, stay up-to-date about upcoming events, and contact us to learn how to get involved.



COMMITTEE REPORT AT QUARTERLY WHITE RIVER COORDINATION ALLIANCE MEETING

In August and November 2021, the CRDG chair presented a status update of CRDG activities to the Alliance during their quarterly stakeholder meeting. This is an effort to keep this group of state and local government officials, regional and local economic development officials, and Crane representatives informed of the CRDG initiatives and progress toward mission goals. These organizations, with frequently overlapping objectives, work hard to collaborate and influence their stakeholders to engage and contribute toward the mission of supporting Crane, the communities that surround it, and the warfighter.

INDIANA DEFENSE TASK FORCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

The Indiana Defense Task Force (IDTF) is designed to make defense a continued priority for the state of Indiana. The task force will work in parallel with the governor's goal to triple defense spending with a specific focus on protecting military assets within communities and around the state. CRDG will directly align with goals tied to outreach and advocacy for NSA Crane and tenants, as well as goals to expand the military mission in Indiana. CRDG advisory board members will continue to be active participants in the IDTF.

DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE

In 2019, the Indiana General Assembly enacted Senate Enrolled Act 459, establishing the Indiana Defense Task Force (IDTF). The Task Force has several mission sets that include the following:

- Identify potential state and local government actions that can minimize the impacts of encroachment on; and enhance the long-term potential of military bases in Indiana.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration among the state, including the military department of the state, political subdivisions, military contractors; and academic institutions to maintain and expand the missions of Indiana's military bases.

SYNOPSIS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Task Force reviewed each of its duties and developed some initial goals and objectives to comply with those duties required under the Statute. The following is an overview of those goals and objectives:

- **Advocating for a Defense Stabilization Fund:** A budget and funding of that budget are critical if the IDTF is to be successful. The IDTF developed an incentive-based concept to accomplish the goals and objectives. The IDTF is working with the IEDC and the Indiana Defense Caucus to establish a strategy to support and protect Indiana military bases and local economies from closure or intrusion while identifying potential actions to support Indiana military bases, communities, military personnel, and families.

The IDTF recommended the funds be referred to as “Defense Stabilization Funds” along with the following as authorized uses of the funds.

- \$250,000 to be used for expenses of the Task Force to include paying for meeting expenses, travel, attendance at conferences, website expenses, etc.
- \$750,000 to establish a community grant program to support projects that are consistent with the duties outlined for the IDTF under IC 4-3- 21.5-11. Communities with military installations or assets could apply for the grant of up to \$100,000 per applicant with a 20% local match required. Recommendation for award approval would be made by the IDTF with final approval by the Office of Defense within the IEDC. More details, requirements, and processes for the grant program would be developed by the IDTF.
- **Identification of Projects:** The members believe one of its first actions is to develop a list of key projects for each installation/ community that supports the overall mission of the Task Force. For example, are there infrastructure needs, encroachment issues, or State support for veterans or military families that need to be addressed? Through the development of a Project List, are there opportunities for collaboration among communities to address common issues?

FUTURE FOCUS

CRDG will build upon the strong foundation established in 2021 in a number of ways going forward. Efforts will focus on growing our membership and networking, expanding our outreach and finding meaningful ways to influence key stakeholders in order to strengthen the ecosystem in and around Crane.

Active member recruiting coupled with continued meaningful networking opportunities will increase CRDG membership ranks in the coming year. Our successful Key Leader Series will continue to expose the membership to insights and information from leaders across the Commands within Crane. CRDG members will gain a unique perspective of the opportunities, challenges and strategies in play across the organization and how the region's stakeholders can positively impact outcomes. Our Connect to Crane activities will continue to provide business entities with opportunities to interact with key subject matter experts and decision-makers in order to explore avenues to provide products and services to the various commands.

This next year will also see a deliberate effort to further connect with local, state and federal decision-makers on behalf of the Crane community to advocate for policies and initiatives that advance, strengthen and support Crane's mission and capabilities. CRDG will work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop an agenda to move toward this cause. Our outreach efforts will increase within the state and nationally as CRDG supports established events such as Crane's Congressional Breakfast and State Legislative Luncheon. CRDG will also establish new opportunities to interact with policymakers in order to discuss Crane-friendly initiatives.

Through the hard work and dedication of a great number of people, CRDG's foundation is well-established. Much more is left to be accomplished and 2022 will see an acceleration and amplification of our efforts to better connect regional stakeholders and focus to preserve and increase the strategic value of Crane.

**CRANE REGIONAL
DEFENSE GROUP**



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