

# WHITE RIVER MILITARY COORDINATION ALLIANCE



## OUTREACH - JANUARY 2024

### WHO WE ARE

The Alliance is a community organization that was formed in 2018 to promote positive development and growth in the communities that surround Naval Support Activity Crane.

### STATE OF THE INSTALLATION

Crane Regional Defense Group, The Alliance, and NSA Crane hosted a special edition Key Leader Series in November to present the annual State of the Installation Address. NSA Commander Luis G. Martinez provided the keynote address, briefing the group on installation successes over the past year, as well as current and upcoming projects including projected workforce needs.

This event provides an opportunity for NSA Crane to share Team Crane's strategic goals and any operational changes or proposed construction projects that may impact the organization's membership and the communities they serve. This public briefing for CRDG was designed to do the same, with a special focus on opportunities local businesses and leaders may have to connect with their communities in relation to base priorities and upcoming initiatives.



### 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Alliance celebrated its 5-year anniversary Tuesday, November 14 at the Lakeview Conference Center on NSA Crane. The luncheon featured demonstrations and booths from various Team Crane divisions and departments, keynote speakers and an award presentation. Speakers included:

- **Cmdr. Luis Martinez, NSA Crane**
- **Brianne Jerrels, Alliance President**
- **Adam Tscherne, Vice President of Defense Missions and Assets for IEDC**
- **Mark Dobbs, Community Planning and Liaison Officer for NSA Crane**

Additionally, Rear Admiral (Ret.) Charles W. Rock, who had oversight of 14 Navy bases as commander of the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, praised the Alliance for how much it accomplished in five years.

To conclude the event, Plankowner Awards were presented to the founding WRMCA members that remain active on the board today in appreciation for their dedication and passion to the organization.



## AUGUST QUARTERLY MEETING

At the Alliance's third-quarter meeting in August, the group welcomed incoming NSA Commander, Luis Martinez to provide an overview of his future plans and initiatives for the installation as he steps into the position for the next three years. Adam Tscherne was also in attendance as the new IEDC representative for the Alliance, and he shared his passion for government and defense sector program growth and expansion.

Additionally, Annie Bullock Yoder with the Joint Hypersonics Technology Transition Office (JHTO) at NSWC Crane provided the group with an overview including what hypersonics means, what the organization's mission is and how it's implemented, and how important this sector of defense is and will be in the future of the warfighter. To help prepare and develop our future workforce, JHTO has created a set of curriculum available to educators and established the University Consortium for Applied Hypersonics (UCAH), an inclusive, collaborative network of universities working with government, industry, national laboratories, federally funded research centers, and existing university affiliated research centers.

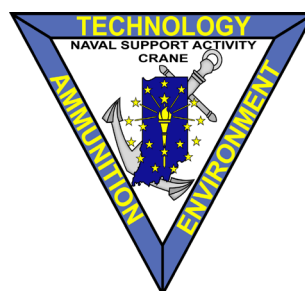


## MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE REVIEW GRANT

The Alliance was awarded nearly \$500,000 in 2023 for a Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) Grant through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Installation Resilience program. The Southern Indiana Development Commission (SIDC) was the sponsoring partner for the submission.

MIRR grant funds will be used to implement two initiatives in the southern Indiana region. The development of the Regional Resilience Master Plan will work to identify issues on shared community infrastructure that may impact mission readiness and help to understand shared vulnerabilities and risks both inside and outside NSA Crane and Lake Glendora Test Facility boundaries. In addition, a housing coalition will be created to grow the pool of local development talent to increase residential options for those living near the local military installations.

Both WRMCA programs will specifically focus on assessing risks and vulnerabilities, and prioritizing mitigation actions of shared infrastructure and services between NSA Crane, Lake Glendora and the surrounding communities.



## CRANE REGIONAL DEFENSE GROUP

Crane Regional Defense Group (CRDG), a subgroup of the Alliance, aims to elevate the strategic value of Crane and expand southern Indiana's defense innovation ecosystem through defense-related outreach and legislative initiatives that enhance military missions in the region.

### Connect to Crane

CRDG hosted its third annual Connect to Crane, a networking event to provide small business owners the opportunity to engage with government and industry leaders who support NSWC Crane.

The event is designed to offer attendees intimate, one-on-one sessions with 20 NSWC Crane representatives and its mission partners. Participants have 10 minutes with each representative to network and learn best practices for gaining contracts, showcase their products and services, and increase their understanding of the federal procurement process. The fast-paced, "speed networking" style event encourages companies to make a lasting impression on the person sitting across from them throughout the day.

### Annual Meeting

CRDG hosted its first Annual Stakeholder Meeting at WestGate Academy in September. Programming included a Team Crane leadership panel, 2023 highlights and future plans for CRDG, and a keynote fireside chat with U.S. Senator Mike Braun.

CRDG President Kent Parisien hosted the event, sharing an overview of the organization's accomplishments since its inception in 2020. Highlights included the successful Connect to Mission series, which has garnered over 350 attendees from at least 18 different states. Additionally, Parisien noted the increase in membership (60), with a new goal of reaching 80 members by the end of the year.



### Connect to Mission

CRDG hosts Connect to Mission events to assist current or prospective businesses (small, large, or non-traditional) with understanding the needs of NSWC Crane's mission areas. These two events drew in over 300 attendees, and over 1,000 attendees in 2023 for all CRDG events from 20 states across the U.S. The events were held quarterly in the second half of 2023 and featured the following departments from NSWC Crane:

- **August:** Special Warfare & Expeditionary Systems Department
- **November:** "Team Crane" - Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane's Corporate Operations Department, Command Support, and Office of Undersecretary of Defense (OUSD), as well as Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) and facility specialists from NSWC Crane and Naval Facilities Mid-Atlantic Public Works Department



## STAY IN TOUCH

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