



## QUESTIONS FOR OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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### OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS (OMA) AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OMA (1) promotes and coordinates statewide activities that enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families and (2) works to expand the military and homeland security presence within the state. OMA's executive director is a department head with the same duties and authority as other department heads. (OMA is located within the Department of Economic and Community Development for administrative purposes only.) Within available appropriations, the executive director must:

1. coordinate state and local efforts to prevent the closure or reduction in size of Connecticut military facilities, particularly the U.S. Naval Submarine Base-New London, located in Groton (sub base Groton);
2. maximize the state's role in the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process, including acting as liaison to (a) the state's congressional delegation on defense, military, and BRAC issues and (b) consult lobbyists the state hires to help monitor BRAC activities;
3. encourage the relocation of military missions to Connecticut;
4. coordinate state and local efforts to enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families living or working in Connecticut;
5. review and make recommendations for state policies that affect Connecticut military facilities and the defense and homeland security industries;
6. coordinate state, regional, and local efforts to encourage the growth of Connecticut's defense and homeland security industry;
7. support the development of a defense and homeland security industry cluster;

8. establish and coordinate a Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council to provide technical advice and assistance;
9. oversee the implementation of recommendations of the Governor's Commission for the Economic Diversification of Southeastern Connecticut; and
10. prepare and submit a report of activities, findings, and recommendations annually to the governor and Commerce and Public Safety and Security committees ([CGS § 32-58b](#)).

## QUESTIONS

1. What significant challenges do you anticipate OMA will face in the next few years? What do you expect to be your biggest challenge? How can the legislature help you meet these challenges?
2. According to the 2013 OMA annual [report](#), defense spending was projected to decline in the coming years, but President Obama's recent budget [proposal](#) called for an increase in the production of planes, helicopters, and submarines in the state.
  - a. How was OMA involved in this proposal?
  - b. How can OMA work to ensure the proposal passes?
  - c. Will the increase in production result in the creation of new jobs in the state, and how can OMA work to ensure such job creation?
3. The Pentagon has [indicated](#) it will seek Congressional authorization for another Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). BRAC has twice targeted the Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) for closure.
  - a. Would you expect the SUBASE to be targeted for closure again?
  - b. What has OMA done to enhance the military value of the base to prepare for the next BRAC Commission meetings?
  - c. What steps are other states taking to ensure that their military facilities will not be targeted for closure?

4. With [thousands](#) of U.S. Armed Forces members scheduled to return to Connecticut in the next two years.
  - a. What role does OMA have in their transition to civilian life?
  - b. How can OMA work with the state Department of Veterans' Affairs in this transition?
  - c. What other efforts has OMA made to enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families?
5. In [2013](#), the departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and Economic and Community Development awarded a \$3 million planning grant to the SUBASE for microgrid planning. How has this grant money been used, and how is the project progressing?

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