

Minutes of the
October 21, 2015, Meeting of the NCMAC Executive Steering Group via Teleconference

Members Present:

BG Bud Martin, USARNG Retired, Chairman
BGen Paul Dordal, USAF Retired, Vice Chairman
LtGen Gary McKissock, USMC Retired
MGen Robert Dickerson, USMC Retired
MGen Cornell A. Wilson, USMC Retired
Sally-Ann Gupta, A/R for Senator Harry Brown
Maj. Bobby Lumsden

Not Present

Col. Jeff Sanborn, USA Retired

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order to discuss the community feedback received about the draft Public Strategic Plan, and since this report is not final, to solicit commission leadership feedback as how we move forward at this point.

Secretary Wilson added that it is essential to have the Commission and communities on board with the final Report.

General Dickerson commented that there was a perception that little interaction occurred other than the consultant group meeting with communities, and that the report was published without their input. Feedback from the Marine Corps has been that they were "digesting" the Report and would share their reservations with Secretary Wilson. MCI-East will contact the Secretary.

General Dordal added that feedback has been encouraged but the intent that this would be an evolving draft Report was not sufficiently communicated to stakeholders. The impending end of the consultant contract contributed to the attempt to move forward quickly. The public document should have been further vetted and adjusted based on stakeholders' input.

General McKissock noted transparency concerns as well as issues with the content. His recommendation was to directly address those who had expressed chagrin about a lack of opportunity to provide input.

Stakeholder comments included:

- Certain language was identical to Virginia's report, and therefore "boilerplate."
- Some found that comments concerning BRAC could be misleading and contradicted what was being said at the federal level. Per Secretary Wilson, nothing changes the fact that the State needs to be prepared for a BRAC or a shadow BRAC.
- The language in the Report about the bond should be removed since the package did not pass the General Assembly.

Gen. Dickerson added that the perception that this Report makes the State BRAC-proof and is a misunderstanding of the document's intent, but rather, what do we need to do to enhance our position in the event of BRAC and the military value of installations.

Gen. McKissock added that many issues on which the Commission has worked are not reflected in the Report, nor are the directives of the General Assembly to the Commission to enhance North Carolina's position in the event of a BRAC. The Executive Summary should be covered in the first two pages.

Chairman Martin stated that it was a challenge to discern what data belongs in the main report, and what may be considered sensitive or classified information.

Maj. Lumsden noted the quandary with sending out a sensitive document electronically and the potential for its dissemination to unintended recipients. An action item was that Maj. Lumsden would be excerpting material for a slide deck presentation; Ms. Gupta offered to work with Maj. Lumsden to generalize the language making it suitable for public release. Ms. Gupta added that a next step should be making the Report easily read and understood by General Assembly members. Ms. Gupta suggested cutting and pasting into a newsletter the executive summary to the General Assembly that can be shared with constituents.

The Group discussed adding a “tear-out” in the public Report highlighting aspects of the executive summary.

Gen. Dickerson would like to see all the comments submitted by communities to be able to address their specific concerns and adjust the Report. He noted the need to market to the western side of the state to highlight the information in the Report. In phase two, the military economic impact to a city like Charlotte should be demonstrated.

We are looking forward to receiving the REMI report that will show the impact of loss of bases, units/troops, or adding missions.

The timeframe for republication will depend on how soon feedback from communities is collected and incorporated into the Report.

General Dordal prefers changes to be made without the necessity of using the consultant group or contractor. We also need to discuss a follow-up contract at the next ESG meeting.

Maj. Lumsden suggested a workgroup comprised of one person from each Committee, go through the details of the report, collect feedback and re-produce the report, perhaps within 2 months.

Ms. Gupta suggested that each community or installation nominate one representative voice to a workgroup to convene next month and determine a timeline for the re-write.

Gen. McKissock added that collecting comments over two days and editing the draft should be feasible.

It was agreed that a working group would be convened to review inputs and comments from the communities, installations and other stakeholders and to revise the Strategic Plan based on these inputs and comments as appropriate. The working group would consist of volunteer representatives from the communities and NCMAC and would meet as soon as possible.

It was also agreed that a communique with an update to Commissioners letting them know the Report is not a final product and that a working group would be established to receive community feedback and complete the report.

Chairman Martin asked if there were additional questions or comments. There were none.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting and thanked all for participating.