

NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2015

Location: The Rural Center, Raleigh, NC

Present:

Voting Members:

Commission Leadership:

Brigadier General Mabry (Bud) Martin, ARNGUS Retired - Chair

Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired - Vice Chair

NCGA Members:

Representative George Cleveland

Fort Bragg Representatives:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anderson, USA Retired

Mr. George Breece

Camp Lejeune Representatives:

Major General Bob Dickerson, USMC Retired

Sergeant Major William Hatcher, USMC Retired

LTG (R) Gary McKissock, USMC Retired

Cherry Point Representatives:

Colonel Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired

Mr. Creswell Elmore

Mr. Sonny Roberts

Seymour Johnson Representatives:

Colonel Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., USA Retired

Hon. Efton Sager

Assistant Secretary Ilario Pantano

Ms. Joy Thrash

Non-Voting Members:

Colonel Jeffrey M. Sanborn, USA

Doug Taggart

Kimrey Rhinehardt

Robert L. Hosford

Authorized Representatives:

Ron Massey for Mayor Sammy Phillips

Janet Bradbury for Sen. Richard Burr

William A. Crews for Secretary Frank Perry

Sebastian Montagne for Secretary Tony Tata

Bryan Gossage for Secretary John Skvarla

Doug Taggart for Secretary June Atkinson

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Additional:

Pete Benton
Tom Bowlin, NCNG
CDR Bruce Brown, CG Elizabeth City
Ray Celeste for Rep. Walter Jones
Jimmie Edmundson
Matt Gunnet
Sal Nodjomian
Terry Yonkers
Greg Taylor
Jamie Livengood
Tom Braaten
Sandi Sanderson
Marc Finlayson
Whitney Christensen

Closed session: Major Lumsden announced that all members of the NC Military Affairs Commission are bound to terms of non-disclosure by virtue of their membership on the Commission.

Chairman Martin called the closed session of the meeting to order pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11 and NCGS § 132-1.2.

The status of consulting services was updated by consulting team:

Data collection. The consulting team has met with all installation commanders, CO's and communities to discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in the October-November 2014 timeframe, with the exception of the National Guard and Reserves. Will be scheduling with the Reserve component commanders to discuss the same. Will meet with CO's again to recap data for accuracy in April timeframe.

Key events. Include successful engagement in DC during visit, upcoming ADC Conference, Army Listening Session.

ADC Conference. Will be attending the upcoming Installation Innovation Forum event in Monterey, CA. We have prepared issue papers for Gen. Wilson and MAC chairmen to be delivered to Assistant Secretaries of branches of service at the event.

Federal Advocacy/Strategic Plan. This includes meetings with Congressional Delegates, submitting legislative requests, coordination with Federal liaison. Priorities include sequestration and FY16 appropriations, Army force structure reductions, BRAC, encroachment, REPI Funding, military construction, wind farm impact on military training, range upgrades.

Congressional update. Significant dates and deadlines were discussed.

1300 Chairman Martin reconvened the regular meeting of the full Commission.

Announcements:

- Governor submitted his budget inclusive of MAC budgetary requests.
- The Governor proposes the creation of a cabinet position for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.
- Recent visits with congressional delegates were productive.
- Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Dordal, Gen. Wilson and Gen. McKissock will attend ADC Conference. We will meet with key Secretary Staff members for all services at the Conference.

Agenda Review:

- Dr. Millsaps could not be here but will brief on the status of credentialing at the next full Commission meeting.
- Sebastian Montagne will brief on transportation issues in place of the education brief.

Administrative Updates by Maj. Lumsden:

- Just over half funds in the budget are obligated. Of remaining funds, we expect to encumber remainder prior to the deadline by adding a JLUS of Hofmann Forest, increase mapping product and any potential accompanying consulting fee for incorporating data into NC-1 Map with a compatibility chart, finalizing REMI project to look at military impact to NC and update to include Guard and Reserves.
- Consolidation of all JLUS's in NC to create a regional or super JLUS for statewide findings and recommendations.
- This would obligate at least 90% of funds.
- Delay on travel reimbursements.
- Please make a note of future meeting dates.
- If you have concerns about being on distribution lists, let Kelly Barretto know.
- Pending approval by NCGA, Governor's budget includes post 911 GI bill and Montgomery bill for active duty, tabletop exercise for P-4 initiative, continue lobbying/advocacy support and for updating strategic plan, program to offer grants to communities, municipalities, non-profits, etc., based on application for funds.

Minutes Approval:

Chairman Martin requested a motion to approve minutes of last full Commission meeting. So moved, seconded and passed by unanimous vote. There was no discussion and no corrections requested. Minutes are not distributed or made public until they have been approved by the Commission.

Website:

Delays in rolling out the new website are expected to wrap up in the near future with the expectation that Commerce will release the site prior to the next meeting of the full Commission.

Public Comments/Open Announcements:

Doug Taggart of DPI provided contact information for 4 military liaison counselors for state employees by way of a handout.

Robert Hosford of the Department of Agriculture announced that on May 6 and 7 at DENR building, SERPPAS will be present to discuss agriculture and the military working together on conservation efforts.

Sandi Sanderson of NCMBC announced that on April 9 and April 13 NCCC will be sponsoring small-business outreaches.

Chairman Martin commented that Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and SB 106 being sponsored by Sen. Brown. This bill modifies the Trust fund such that any remaining funds are not returned to the general fund but remain in the account. SB 105 will require LLC companies to provide an annual report to the Secretary of State with number of veterans employed by them.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs

Committee Chairman Bob Dickerson briefed on matters before the Committee.

- Had a teleconference on Hofmann Forest and potential ways ahead: let it go, have State work with NC State to determine NC State's price, or assess requirement for boots on the ground training.
- Basic Law Enforcement Training – state certification requirements are approximately 650 hours; several agencies are working on this.
- EMS/Firefighter certification – need to determine cost to be certified to work off base. Frank Bottorff drafted a letter with a figure of \$461,000 in offset costs.
- PEDRO – there is a squadron at Cherry Point, one of two. Being defunded and expected to be stood down with no replacement for the Marine Corps. This could be a local community funding issue. Sen. Tillis and Rep. Jones are asking what the plan to replace the squadron is, with the Seahawks being a possible replacement.
- Sentinel Landscapes – Correspondence has been sent to OSD and I & E and we are awaiting responses.

Quality of Life

- Licensure of child care facilities: Maj. Lumsden confirmed that DHHS is working directly with Fort Bragg, which has several state-certified facilities. Fort Bragg provided a list of 14 items that were issues as they relate to DoD standards vs. state standards. A list of

corrective measures was provided to Ft. Bragg. A joint meeting is upcoming. It appears not to need legislative action at this time.

- 911 Call Centers: spoke to Mr. Taylor of the 911 Board. The Board would like to see a uniform approach that provides assistance to the bases.
- Doug Taggart briefed on the meeting that took place to plan the April education symposium. A resource guide is contemplated for military-connected parents. There are 4 state-funded military liaison counselors. There are also school liaison counselors, however there is no statutory protection for these state-funded positions. Reserve and Guard children do not have a liaison, however, Mr. Taggart does spend time in that role. Col. Anderson will discuss with Senator Brown funding for that position.

Economic Development

Committee Chairman McKissock provided a brief on matters before the Committee.

- Camp Lejeune hiring event: Governor's remarks were well received.
- The NC Community Colleges System is making progress on unraveling the credentialing issue.
- Employment initiatives: Kimberly Lindsay is moving forward with education of the hiring professional.
- F-35: Roundtable took place with LTG Harry Blot, USMC Retired, who is knowledgeable about how DoD will run the program. We are slightly behind the curve relative to attracting supply chain people, however, the DoD program manager has not yet made final decisions. We discussed space at the regional airport, maintenance, etc. with key personnel from the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). A letter from the Economic Development Committee will issue to the full Commission requesting full endorsement of the F-35 plan with EDPNC.

Legislative Affairs

Senator Brown was not in attendance to brief the Commission. Chairman Martin briefed Speaker Tim Moore and his staff on the NCMAC's accomplishments and progress. Senator Burger's staff received the same brief.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Top Ten Priorities

Vice Chairman Dordal briefed on the NCMAC's priorities and status of correlating actions. (Power point slide presentation available on NCMAC website for list in its entirety.)

Vice Chairman Dordal requested a motion to proceed with a JLUS on Hofmann Forest to determine potential future value to military training. A motion was made and seconded. There was discussion about whether base Commanders stated no boots on the ground were required for training in that area

and the cost. Also discussed was the potential effect of unrestricted development of the area that should be studied. The Chairman called the question and put the motion to vote. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A recommendation was made to obtain the opinion of DoD counsel on the law governing 911 Centers and directing of state funds directly to installation PSAP's.

A motion was made that NCMAC write a letter to Senator Brown in support of the waiver of community college recertification fees for federal firefighters and EMT personnel and requesting funding in the amount of \$461,000 to cover those Community College costs. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote without discussion.

Commissioner George Breece announced that Col. Jeff Sanborn was taking the position of Pinehurst City Manager and thanked him for his leadership at Fort Bragg.

Chairman Martin announced a 15-minute break.

NC Commanders Council Report

Mr. Paul Friday summarized the NC Commanders Council's morning meeting.

Topics discussed included:

- the Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
- NC Military mission footprint is pending; under review for delivery
- The Council will submit a letter to Commissioner of Agriculture seeking funding for \$1 million toward selected projects
- Endorsement for SB 106
- Received update from consultants
- Voted and approved to set up working group to hear pros and cons on NC Finance Act bills that are pending
- Will draft a letter to NCMAC re: a Hofmann Forest JLUS
- The map product is with OSD – we are following up regularly

There were no questions following Mr. Friday's brief.

Division of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Ilario Pantano, Director, briefed on the Division's accomplishments over the last year. He presented by power point slides. (See NCMAC website for presentation.) The DVA legislative agenda has been developed. See NC4VETS.com for annual report. The Governor's Working Group has been actively meeting and addressing a number of veterans' issues while connecting resources. We are looking forward to accessing federal resources for veterans in the state.

Mr. Pantano answered several questions and concluded his brief.

Employment Initiatives

Ms. Kimberly Lindsay presented to the Commission updating them on progress with the various employment initiatives in the State. She shared the Governor's video launching the Military Pipeline software, and encouraging employers to consider the vast veteran talent supply in NC. The State liaison coordinator is Larry Wood. She discussed the upcoming leadership summits where employers will make commitments to hire veterans. We are training 60 Small Business Center directors and introducing the curriculum so they can train others. Mr. Bill Crews discussed hiring personnel to DPS through the hiring event and being pleased with the result.

Futures, Inc.

Geoff Cramer, CEO of Futures, Inc. discussed the NC Military Pipeline program, its role in connecting resources, and the importance of a program that can document outcomes and impacts. He discussed the number of companies looking for a supply chain of talent with the skillset of transitioning military, the potential for a \$3.8 billion education stimulus by retaining already-trained personnel. He emphasized the need to connect with small businesses, and matching jobs and training programs to veterans and their spouses. Mr. Cramer concluded his brief and took questions.

Consumer Finance/Short-term Loans

Al Ripley of the NC Justice Center addressed the Commission on the impact of lending practices on the military. He referenced two DoD reports: *Enhancement of Protection on Consumer Credit for Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents, April 2014*, and *the Proposed Rules for Expansion of the Military Lending Act*, filed September 2014. He illustrated his presentation with power point slides. He highlighted the youth of junior enlisted members that do not have financial experience, and their access to low-risk, high-interest loans leading to debt traps and repeat renewals. There is concern about a payday bill, a car loan bill, a bill to permit increase in rates and fees to consumer finance loans, and a bill eliminating the requirement to run a DoD check to verify status. There is also concern about legislation permitting a 10% origination fee up from 1%. APR's would be above 100%. Military families are particularly vulnerable. Mr. Ripley took questions following the conclusion of his brief.

Department of Transportation Update

Sebastian Montagne of DOT discussed how the Department is identifying needs of military and families. He displayed an NC Military Transportation Footprint map identifying military and municipal boundaries, etc. STI (Strategic Transportation Improvement) is a statewide, numbers-based system at the regional and divisional level. Vice Chairman Dordal requested a list of projects around installations on which NC DOT is currently working.