

**Minutes of the 4th Quarterly Meeting of the NC Military Affairs Commission
Camp Lejeune, NC**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

BGen Paul Dordal, USAF Retired, Vice Chairman
Sonny Roberts
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired
MGen Robert Dickerson, USMC Retired
Col. Jeffrey Sanborn, USA Retired
George Breece
CDR Bill Lehmann, USCG Retired
Sgt Maj William Hatcher, USMC Retired
Cresswell Elmore
Col. Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., USAF Retired
LtGen Gary McKissock, USMC Retired
Joy Thrash
Patricia Walker
RADM Steve Ratti, USCG Retired
Maj Gen Jimmy Stewart, USAFR Retired
Hon. Chuck Allen
Jeremiah Daniels
Patricia Walker
Rep. George Cleveland
Sally Ann Gupta for Sen. Brown (by phone)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES:

Asst. Sec'y Ilario Pantano, Div. of Veterans Affairs
Will Best, NC Dept. of Commerce (by phone)
Sebastian Montagne, Dept. of Transportation (by phone)
Robert Hosford, Department of Agriculture
Bryan Gossage, DNCR
Henry Moore, DPI (for Doug Taggart)
Dewitt Hardee, Department of Agriculture

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

MGen Cornell A. Wilson, USMC Retired
Maj. Bobby Lumsden, Exec Officer to Sec'y Wilson
Paul Friday, MCI-East
Bill Meier, MCI-East
Ron Lingle, Fayetteville Tech. Community College
Sheila Pierce Knight, JOED
Dan Oliver, JOED
Stu Cox, SJAFB
CAPT. Sean Murtagh, USCG
Bryan Ayers, MCI-East
Sen. Norman Sanderson
Janet Bradbury (Sen. Burr's office)
Marc Finlayson, ACT
Tim McCurry
Dan Savage
Jim McDonough
Jim Wartski, USDVA
LT Brian Underwood, USACE Wilmington District
Scott Dorney
Col. Brett Funck, USA
Dan Savage
Col. Giles Kyser, USMC Retired
Maj. Jeremy Schmidt, USMC Reserves

George Liner, Craven Co.
Jennifer Burbage, MCI-East
Ashley Adamovage, UNC-GA
Ann Beall, Asst. to Kimrey Rhinehardt of UNC-GA
Greg Lewis, ACT
Tina Paulson, MCI-East School Liaison
Tyler Harris, MCAS Cherry Point
Steve Keen, Dir., Governor's Eastern Regional Office
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Col. Pete Benton, USA Retired
John Chaffee, NC East Alliance
Tim Salmon, MCAS New River
Charlie Ferrell, SC Military Based Task Force
Col. Mark Slocum, USAF
Maggie Pollard, Accenture
Jimmie Edmundson
Joy White, USDVA
Pete Deloria
CDR Bruce Brown, USCG Elizabeth City
Travis Bowers
Jamie Livengood, Military Liaison Counselor
Kimberly Lindsay Williams

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - At 1235 NC Military Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired, called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Col. Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., USAF Retired to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions - Vice Chairman Dordal introduced II MEF CG Maj. Gen. W. Lee Miller, Jr., who gave opening remarks. General Miller thanked the Commission for its support of the military, discussed the II MEF's capabilities, deployment figures, and the Command's priorities and how they will be accomplished.

Vice Chairman Dordal noted that Chairman Martin was unable to be in attendance at today's meeting due to a family emergency. He thanked Gen. Weidley for hosting the NCMAC and sponsoring lunch for attending commanders and voting commission members.

Attendees introduced themselves, noting the community they represent and their respective Committee associations.

Motion to Approve Last Quarter Minutes - Upon motion of Commissioner Dickerson and second by Commissioner Roberts, the Commissioners unanimously approved the NCMAC 3rd Quarter meeting minutes.

Administrative/New Department Update – Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary Cornell Wilson, Jr. provided additional introductory remarks, commenting on the Department's goal of preserving the ability to train and deploy for all of the State's military bases. He also thanked the Governor and the General Assembly for their vision in creating the new Department.

Budget – Maj. Bobby Lumsden briefed the Commission on the status of the current budget.

- The carryover from last year was \$10,397.05.
- We were appropriated \$1.675 million.
- Based on current approved plan, \$80,000 allocated for administrative support, \$600,000 for lobbying and advocacy, \$240,000 for strategic plan update and implementation, \$300,000 for P-4 partnership, community and installation grants were scaled back by the GA from \$400,000 to the allowable \$200,000.
- Remainder is \$365,387.05, the use of which the Commission will determine. Recommendations for use include funding a portion of firefighter/paramedic fees.
- Changed legislation: The MAC makes recommendations to the Secretary who will make final decisions as to expenditures.

Reimbursements - All reimbursements will be processed and sent within 7-10 days for the last quarter. Reimbursement forms for today's meeting will be sent electronically for signature, return to headquarters, and processing.

Starting with the next quarter's meetings, reimbursement forms will be partially pre-completed and should streamline the process.

AUSA - Chairman Martin, Secretary Wilson, and Ms. Pat Walker attended and met with approximately 10 defense industry entities, including BAE, Lockheed Martin, United Defense, Colt Industries, about bringing industry to NC. Rick Minor from EDPNC was also in attendance. The team also met with Army leadership.

Bond – Bond package was submitted for approval to GA and will proceed to vote in March 2016. Some military projects were not funded, however, there is funding for the National Guard, schools, water and sewer. Projects that should be considered by the General Assembly in the upcoming short session should be submitted to Chairs for inclusion through the Department.

Public Comments: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs

Committee Chairman Bob Dickerson briefed the Commission on the Committee's last meeting.

- Submitted a letter to Chairman Martin that was sent to Brad Carson, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness requesting a review of DoD's census accounting policy with the goal of accurate accounting of service members. Ms. Pat Walker emphasized that we are looking for consistency in DoD's accounting policies. We are requesting that DoD enforce what is already written. Thanks extended to Pat Walker and Ron Massey for their support in drafting the letter. The effort by the Committee was borne out of Onslow County's concerns that numbers were grossly underestimated (by 21,000) for the County in the 2010 census. The letter requested a timely response. There is a method to track the status of the letter by a tracking number;
- Discussed updated Committee priorities;
- Discussed Matrix study and better communication and engagement, an ongoing process;
- Discussed Community Coordinator role and how to better structure them as a resource within the Committees themselves.

Quality of Life

Committee Chairman Jeff Sanborn briefed the Commission on the Committee's last meeting.

- Child care funding: Removed state child care funding as a priority from the Committee's list;
- Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit: there have been personnel changes at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center as well as at Fort Bragg since the concern was first raised. New leadership is evaluating the concern. Details still to be determined include authorization and funding for bed space and whether to use the existing facility vs. constructing a new facility;
- 911 PSAP public-public partnership: being lowered in priority. The State has done what it can. All services do not wish to pursue this interest. MCI-East has decided not to pursue it. Seymour Johnson has expressed interest. Fort Bragg submitted their request through Army channels, which has not yet been acted on by the Army;
- School Calendar Flexibility / Military Liaison Counselors: these issues were raised by Doug Taggart of DPI at the QoL Committee meeting. There is a perceived need for calendar flexibility to better accommodate transitioning military students. We are looking into the extent of the challenge of considering the calendar of the incoming student and the departing student. Mr. Taggart will consult with each area superintendent to fully describe what their wishes are, and draft a letter to circulate to military communities for endorsement. At the meeting, Mr. Taggart also raised the lack of military liaison counselors in our schools perhaps needing to add personnel, either locally or regionally. Mr. Taggart will provide additional information to the Committee.

Economic Development

Committee Chairman Gary McKissock briefed the Commission on the Committee's last meeting.

- NC Community Colleges: the Community College System briefed the Committee on the status of credentialing and licensing, and they will provide a brief later;
- NC4ME: Ms. Kimberly Lindsay Williams updated the Commission on 3 NC4ME Leadership Seminars that took place in Raleigh, Charlotte and Wilmington sponsored by MetLife and CISCO, attended by approximately 100. Ms. Williams discussed the employer pledge process. There are 4 more summits scheduled for 2016 on which Jeremy Schmidt will take the lead;
- Credentialing & Licensing: What curriculum credits do service members earn during training and active duty? American Council of Educators surveys the coursework given by DoD and validates these credits for transcripts. We need to examine this over the next six months;
- F-35: Cherry Point was identified as the location for the lift fan repair facility, a 2018 milcon project, and should employ 50 direct jobs and approximately 30 part-time employees over 50 years. Planning with the program manager begins in DC this month. ACT has led the coordinated effort along with the assistance of the Governor, the Secretary and both Commission senators and congressmen;
- OEA Grant: vis-à-vis this grant, we will identify supply chain opportunities and employees to support them in the state over 24 to 36 months;
- Rail line – NC DOT has partnered with Camp Lejeune to conduct a study on the Lejeune rail operated by Norfolk Southern that could be used for commercial rail in Onslow County, per Ron Massey of Jacksonville;

- Employment software: NC4ME and NC WORKS are being looked at for integration with an expected solution in the next 90 days.

Legislative Affairs

Sally Ann Gupta, policy advisor of Committee Chairman Harry Brown’s office provided a legislative update.

Bill No.	Description
SB 43	Signed into law on June 24, 2015 – allows DMV to extend period immediately preceding CDL application for veterans from 90 days to 1 year to be exempted from certain CDL skills test.
SB 105	Would require LLC’s (limited liability companies) to provide annual report of veterans hired to Secretary of State. This bill did not pass the House and is eligible for reintroduction in the 2017 long session.
SB 106	Modified Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Match (for protection of military buffers) adds certain language, with \$1 million adopted in final budget to Clean Water Management Trust Fund for allocation.
SB 250	Restoring aid to county veterans’ services dedicates \$200,000 allocated to Division of Veterans Affairs to counties for the maintenance and operation of county veterans’ service programs.
SB 368	DoD childcare certification and subsidy - authorized in the budget.
SB 478	Waives 12-month residency requirement for service members to be eligible for in-state tuition.
HB 97	2015 Appropriations Bill – authorizes \$1.675 million in non-renewable funding for FY 15-16 for the NCMAC, strategic planning and economic modeling, along with federal level advocacy. Provides for the Secretary of Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish application guidelines for grants up to \$200,000 (from military presence stabilization fund) for local military communities and installations. Increases contribution to the National Guard pension.
HB 943 (NC Bond Act of 2015)	Provides funding for NCNG Readiness Centers in Guilford, Berke and Wilkes in the amount of \$70 million; provides an additional \$300 million in military base infrastructure improvement.

There were over 40 pieces of military-related legislation over the last session. This list was circulated at the last full Commission meeting. Mr. Breece requested a copy of the list and indication of the bill sponsors.

Senator Sanderson added that this has been one of the most military-friendly legislative sessions in his five years with the General Assembly. Much of the legislation is still pending for consideration during the next short session in late April.

BRAC

Committee Chairman Paul Dordal briefed the Commission on the Committee's last meeting in November. Attendees at that meeting were asked to represent communities in considering what was needed to be accomplished at a community level and state level in light of the last round of BRAC in 2005. Downsizing and closures can take place in the absence of BRAC, i.e., a shadow BRAC. A meeting is contemplated in February for communities to comment on what they would like to see happen in the event of a round of BRAC. Getting the message about North Carolina's military value to key decision-makers is the highest priority of the Commission. The BRAC Committee will meet in February of 2016.

Top Ten (plus) NCMAC Priorities

Vice Chairman Dordal briefed the Commission on the Commission's top ten priorities, based on input from the Committee chairs:

1. Strategic Plan – meeting with community groups next Wednesday and Thursday for input on the draft Plan;
2. By-laws Revision– the working group met once and made changes to the MAC by-laws based on recent legislation that established the new Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and relevant funding;
3. Working Lands Group – moves to #2. Bryan Gossage, chair of the Working Lands Group, stated that he met with the Jacksonville City Manager to discuss Hofmann Forest. Clean Water Management Trust Fund met last week and is funding \$3.5 million toward military acquisition projects affecting every branch of service in the state. The application period opens in two weeks;
4. *New.* Develop economic development opportunities associated with logistics and supply chain support for military aircraft (ex: JSF) and aviation equipment; Support in-state tuition for military affiliated students has been removed by ESG recommendation;
5. Review legislation and proposals for construction of High Structures/Wind turbine construction and other renewable energy projects which may adversely affect military installations, training, or operations;
6. Coordinate and assist with transportation infrastructure issues affecting military installations;
7. Assist with integrating transitioning military, veterans, Guard, Reserve, and military dependents into NC workforce
8. Continue to support NC National Guard legislation requests for State support and funding to leverage federal funds and programs;
9. Coordinate for state funding and support for 911 Call Centers on military installations and establish Joint 911 Call Centers with local communities where appropriate (ESG recommends continued monitoring);
10. *New.* Support initiatives for re-establishing military child in crisis care facilities and procedures for behavioral and psychological problems. (Coordinate State certification for military childcare centers located on installations removed as #10 by recommendation of the ESG);
11. *New.* Support DPI initiatives to improve support for military students;
12. Waive fees for annual certifications for firefighters and EMT personnel. *Funding was not approved during GA long session.*

Vice Chairman Dordal requested a motion to approve the MAC revised top ten priority list. Mr. Breece moved to approve the revised list, which was seconded and passed unanimously without further discussion.

After a brief break, the meeting reconvened with the following presentations and announcements.

Veterans Affairs

Ilario Pantano, Director of Veterans Affairs, reported to the Commission on Division matters.

- In Goldsboro, the 4th veterans' cemetery in NC has been dedicated in honor of MSG Joshua Wheeler;
- Looking to outside partners to augment next phase of growth of veterans' services in the state, including the federal VA;
- 7 offices have been opened in VA medical facilities;
- Mr. Jim Wartski, US Department of Veterans Affairs, briefed the Commission on Secretary McDonald's intention to enhance care of veterans. The "new" VA is broken into 5 districts. The first district being launched is from Maine to North Carolina.

He oversees the district of North Carolina, which will have with 26 individuals in the communities working at a grass-roots level;

- Mr. Pantano next introduced Jim McDonough of Institute for Veterans and Military Families (“IVMF”) and Maggie Pollard of Accenture Consulting. Mr. McDonough discussed the building of community-based networks of resources, services and care on a regional basis in NC. NC is part of a public-private partnership with private sector resources. There will be four regions that will include Charlotte-Mecklenburg (serving 10 counties), Raleigh (serving 7 counties) that will be underwritten by private donors.

NCMF

Mr. Scott Dorney thanked the services and major commands for their support of the Military Energy Roundtable and Fed Con Summit held in October 2015.

Commanders Council

Mr. Paul Friday briefed the Commission on the Council’s morning meeting.

- Discussed status of sunset on energy renewable credits legislation;
- Sentinel Landscapes/REPI Challenge;
- NC Department of Agriculture briefed on awards for Easements (Seymour Johnson and Fort Bragg);
- Trust Fund status;
- Update on timing for state’s designation as Sentinel Landscape, to be announced early next calendar year. Approximately \$150 million goes out to easternmost 25 counties in NC from US Department of Agriculture, alone, for land protection programs;
- Commander Reports were given.

Contract Updates

Major Bobby Lumsden briefed the Commission on updates to REMI, Mapping, and Regional JLUS contract with the NCMAC.

- Consultant contract: all of the original contract terms and first modification were met as of June 30. Modification #2 includes a regional JLUS and compatible land-use mapping (red, yellow, green) and is 50% complete; contract ends January 30, 2016;
- Potential contract extension to include a statement of work, continued federal advocacy, strategic communications plan. Input is requested from voting Commissioners and *ex-officio* members on the breakdown of specific tasks and corresponding actions within the Statement of Work;
- HB 97 – allocates funding to installations/communities, subject to certain restrictions such as salaries and consultant fees, from a fund that is housed with Military and Veterans Affairs; MAC needs to appoint a rule maker to work with the Office of Administrative Hearings to ensure legal sufficiency to create a set of rules applicable to criteria for eligibility for grant funding. Frank Bottorff will act in this capacity.
- Due-out: tasks within the Statement of Work will be identified and broken out individually.

UNC / NCCS / Credit Policy Update

Dr. Kim Sepich, Associate Vice President for Student Services for NC Community Colleges System, and Chuck Gross, Director of Prior Learning Assessment at the UNC School of Administration gave updates on implementation of academic credit for prior learning/experience.

- SB 761 directs NCCC and UNC Board of Governors to assess academic credits to be given for prior military training, which passed in 2014.
- A strategic plan was jointly submitted by the State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC Board of Governors in January 2015 that outlines the process used to achieve goals in SB 761. A statewide committee was formed as part of the

plan known as the Military Credit Advisory Council that will work on a uniform method for granting credit for military training and experience. The first objective is to serve current and prospective students who have received military training, second is to provide clear and consistent information, and third is to ensure transferability of credits between colleges;

- This is a faculty-driven process and is moving forward with an sights on the end of 2016 by which to have programs in place;
- Articulation agreements are in place between various colleges and universities.

ADC Southeast Regional Forum

Vice Chairman Dordal briefed on the successful event expressing gratitude to Division of Veterans Affairs for funding assistance. Excellent participation by communities from North to South Carolina. ESG feels the Commission has gotten its money's worth by being members of the ADC and the membership will continue for another year.

OEA / DEA Grant – Overview / Discussion

General McKissock updated on the status of the OEA grant, which will be moved from the Economic Development Committee to Military and Veterans Affairs for management. Mr. Derek Gaitlin of NC State also briefed the Commission. A planning proposal draft is near completion with several outstanding questions that will need to be answered to satisfy program officers. Anticipate early January by which to have a final proposal.

New Business

- **By-law Working Group:** Vice Chairman Dordal discussed community/installation representation on Committees and needing to change by-laws to include a Commissioner from each area being represented on each Committee. Col. Bottorff asked about community representatives being members of the NCMAC Executive Steering Group. Rep. Cleveland and Mr. Roberts concur with Col Bottorff. Revised by-laws will be sent out to voting commissioners for their input. Committee chairs are asked to scrutinize carefully the language in the drafted by-laws that pertains to their respective Committees.
- **Community Coordinator Role:** Vice Chairman Dordal discussed the original intent of the role. Communities (base representatives, mayor, city and county representatives) should be meeting on a quarterly basis so as to be able to raise issues to the Committees in a timely manner.
- A working group will consist of Joy Thrash, Jimmy Stewart, Jeremiah Daniels and Pat Walker to draft Standard Operating Procedures that will supplement the by-laws.

Future Meetings

February 2 – NCMAC ESG meeting (location TBD)

February 16 – NCMAC full Commission meeting (location TBD)

Following a request for comments or questions, Vice Chairman Dordal adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.