

Minutes of the 3rd Quarter July 25, 2017, Meeting of the NCMAC Quality of Life Committee
150 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kirk Warner, Acting Committee Chair
George Breece, Acting Commission Vice Chair (by phone)
Tony Stimatz, Commissioner, Committee Member
Sonny Roberts, Committee Member (by phone)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

James Semmens, Dep. Dir. for Field Services, Division of Motor Vehicles
Kelly Jackson, DMVA, Service member Family Coord.
Willie Casey, DMVA, Installation Coord.
Mark Teachey, Veterans Treatment Court Program Director (by phone)
Doug Taggart, DPI (by phone)
Stuart Ruffin, NCMF (by phone)
Jamie Norment, ACT (by phone)
Hugh Overholt, ACT (by phone)
Caroline Outten, ACT
Pat Wilson, Intern at Smith Anderson
Troy Cunningham, DMV Staff Development Specialist
Charlie Grady, DMV, Mobile Coordinator
Kelly Barretto, DMVA Admin. Coordinator

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Acting Committee Chair Kirk Warner welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00. He thanked all for attending notwithstanding the late notice of the correct start time. The agenda and minutes from the last meeting were sent to the Committee, who should have received the minutes, previously. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum.

- An Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting will occur on August 1 that will contain back briefs from this meeting. Full Commission meets August 15.
- Three other NCMAC Committees also meet and report to the ESG to develop the agenda for the full Commission meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

When Chairman Warner asked whether anyone had corrections or deletions to the drafted minutes from the last meeting, Commissioner Stimatz stated he asked on the conference call at the last meeting if we had looked at obtaining quality of life survey data from DoD or doing our own survey. **Discussion:** He was told on the conference call that that was discussed at the previous meeting. He did not see it in the draft minutes and he saw no resolution of the issue. He stated he did not necessarily want to change it here, but would like to add that question to old business when we get to it. Chairman Warner acknowledged discussing this, but was unsure if it was at the Committee meeting or the ESG, because we passed that on to Paul Friday who

was looking into Camp Lejeune, and the same with Bragg personnel – Command Climate surveys, do not really count; there was pushback. Paul Friday was going to find out what was going on in DC and whether we could craft something, if not. Chairman Warner thinks a sentence or two could be added to the minutes, subject to approval. Commissioner Stimatz said he would just like to ensure it is mentioned today. Commissioner Stimatz' discrepancy with the minutes as written was noted for the record.

Chairman Warner stated we would add that to new business. There may be feedback we can use from in-processing and out-processing centers and gather that information from the posts. We can talk about what was on the Coast Guard Survey, as a starting point.

Chairman Warner added he recalled it coming up in conversation, and subject to that addition requested a motion to approve the minutes. So moved by Commissioner Stimatz and seconded by Commissioner Roberts. All were in favor indicated by unanimous ayes. Minutes stand approved with the addition of two sentences that Chairman Warner will draft and add.

OLD BUSINESS

Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CCSU)

Chairman Warner has not yet spoken to Womack about potential resources, but spoke to Maj. Gen. Holcombe, Chief of the Nurse Corps., when she was attending a seminar in North Carolina about that issue; she can assist to see if we can obtain support for the CCSU.

Kelly Jackson has been compiling information. She met with Dr. Lesica, the chief child psychologist at Bragg. He still supports this program and would like us to continue to research what can be done. When Ms. Jackson asked if Womack could do something, Dr. Lesica indicated that was unlikely. From his perspective, the Army does not necessarily "do that with their hospitals." He encouraged Ms. Jackson to speak with Mr. Biggers of Cape Fear Valley Medical. She will try to gather more data. She spoke with Jeff Smith about the possibility of DHHS having funding. She will share more information as it becomes available.

Commissioner/Acting Vice Chairman Breece knows that Dr. Breeden Blackwell and Dr. Fleischmann are on board and eager to accomplish this; Mr. Biggers is a good starting point. Mike Nagowski, President and CEO of CFVMC would like to see this happen. Majority Whip Sen. Meredith has been working with County Manager for assistance through their office. Commissioner/Acting Vice Chairman Breece offered Sen. Meredith's contact information and suggested contact to gauge where he is in terms of legislation and matching finding.

Doug Taggart of DPI noted that there is no grant writing office in the state, while other states have grant management offices that communicate opportunities to other agencies. He suspects there are federal grant opportunities. Chairman Warner agreed that this is needed, and would be a perfect complement to a need like this.

Chair Warner's Recommendation to ESG: Prepare a letter supporting the CCSU construct, centralization of grants specifically for this endeavor.

Evaluate what OSBM offers, other states' programs and use to benchmark what is needed in this state. Chairman Warner asked if the group, including Kelly Jackson, Kelly Barretto and Commissioner Stimatz, would research available grant-writing resources through OSBM.

Easing Transient Military Spouse State Professional Licensing Requirements Doug Taggart of DPI updated SB8. This bill was overtaken for another purpose during the legislative session after the filing of Edition 3; it was changed to cover building code exemptions and something covering airports. It is believed that the timeline for licensing fees is still 60 days. Mr. Taggart will confirm this. While this sounds quick, it may be an issue for example where there is a July transfer with an August school session. There was discussion of the sponsor of the original bill being legislators, Wells, Brown and Pate as primary sponsor. Mr. Taggart is asked to follow up with bill sponsors about the status of this bill. Perhaps it could be amended in crossover.

In-state Tuition Status

Mr. Moretz was unable to brief on behalf of UNC System. Ms. Barretto will follow up offline with Mr. Moretz to find out how the legislation is being implemented and what conversion issues they may be encountering, whether tweaks are needed to legislative enactments on it.

Legislative Updates

HB 486 has been signed by the Governor (treats active duty NG service, uniform policy for excused absence). The bill broadens the tuition assistance program to cover students in professional certification programs, to ensure compliance with state and federal law for veterans. The bill also prohibits closure of Goldsboro Cemetery.

S599 passed and changes certain teacher licensing criteria and preparation for hire as a teacher, per Mr. Taggart.

Ms. Barretto will send out the Legislative Affairs Committee briefing to the Quality of Life Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

ADC 2017 Summit

John Simmons of The Roosevelt Group updated the Committee on the recent ADC Summit in DC.

- Meetings took place with civilian leadership in Installations, Energy & Environment office, as political leadership has not yet been in place. Local NC military groups were invited.
- Met with Randall Robinson with the USA and Deputies Paul Cramer and Andy Napoli;
- For Navy/Marine Corps met with James Balocki, Dep. Secretary for IE&E;
- For Air Force met with Richard Hartley, Principal DAS, and Ms. Jennifer Miller and Mr. Terran Judd

- **Discussion Highlights:** Thanked them for winning Record of Decision for KC-46A in Seymour, asked where are we on proposed bed down at Charlotte base, discussed Adversary Air opportunities proposed for Seymour Johnson and utilizing space in Kinston; discussed Dare County Range and the Air Force Enterprise Range Plan; discussed underutilized space with disestablishment of 440th Wing; existing space available at FORSCOM headquarters; requirements for extending runway for Global Response Force; dedicated funding needed at Fort Bragg for special operations footprint; highlighted State support for Navy's lift fan project in the FY18 request; and future projects both for Cherry Point and FRC-East; milcon investment at Camp Lejeune.

His colleague Lucien Niemeyer was nominated by the President and has a confirmation hearing on the 18th to become the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations, Energy & Environment. Robert Wilkie, national security advisor to Senator Tillis, has been nominated by the President to be Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness and has an upcoming confirmation.

Mr. Simmons asked if there were any questions. He added that he sent to the Secretary and to Acting Vice Chairman Breece the Veterans Education Assistance Act passed by the to provide a significant increase to GI funding for Reservists, Guard and dependents to enable future recipients to use the benefits for a lifetime and is strongly supported by VSO's. The Scott Choice Act has been reintroduced and referred to the Senate Health Committee with no major action on this; there is an identical bill in the House. He thinks those bills will end up in a larger education reform package. Part of the problems is determining the budget before passing authorization for it.

Chairman Warner asked if any grassroots push was needed from the Committee or Department, or recommendations for engagement by the MAC.

Mr. Simmons reminded of an amendment that will be offered by Senator McCain and Senator Reed on a bill that will allow for a BRAC process without a BRAC Commission. Well-known bases are not averse to a bill that allows for DoD and presidential approval without congressional approval. That would not allow for independent review or meaningful community input but would let the Services determine their future. States like NC and VA may be in favor of this amendment. Other states like IA, MI, MS, whose bases are not well known and would like a Commission. They are trying to get something in the Conference Report; if Secretary Mattis was to push for a BRAC a Commission could alter the language.

Acting Vice Chairman Breece thanked Mr. Simmons for sending the updated legislative reports.

Host Military Superintendent Group

He would like to continue engagement with County Superintendents on an ongoing basis. Chairman asked if all agreed to invite Dr. Dunsmore to the full Commission meeting as a presenter. Acting Vice Chairman Breece only asks that they mind the time frame within which to speak, i.e., a 10-minute block of time.

OLD BUSINESS

K-12. Chairman Warner is giving thought to getting high-density counties together as a subcommittee of a state superintendents' group, for instance, to share best practices to the extent they are not already doing that and convey those combined efforts into action. Chairman Warner asked Mr. Taggart for his suggestion as to how to implement this idea and host a meeting with them. Ms. Jackson will attempt to coordinate this.

Military Representation on Boards of Ed in High Density Military Communities

Commissioner Roberts raised this at a prior meeting; it is a subject that needs to be addressed on Cherry Point and CLNJ. They would like a larger say in the school system than they have had in the past.

Chairman Warner asked if the Commanders' Council should work with the host community superintendents to get them invited to participate in the Board meetings on a regular basis. Commissioner Roberts affirmed, saying Col. Todd Ferry is a good point of contact to begin with.

Commissioner Stimatz added that their County experiences this issue. The school boards control that issue despite the community or County or Command's desire to be involved. We wanted a non-voting, ex-officio member – the School board opposed this. He believes it is a local matter that requires setting up a system with each school board.

Commissioner Roberts added they would simply like to be included in meetings and have a voice to speak to subjects, without a vote. Mr. Taggart said the bases can send representatives to attend as the meetings are public.

Chairman Warner agrees we should facilitate this process between the base commanders and the boards and asks that Kelly Jackson, Sonny Roberts and Doug Taggart follow up with this.

Commissioner Stimatz suggests that contact is made with commanders to see what they have tried to do, their success and suggestions to connect with their school boards. The Pasquotank County school board was not in support of adding ex-officio members. Chairman Warner believes this is also an appropriate matter for the Commanders' Council.

Troops to Teachers Grant

Mr. Taggart stated there is a grant award through May of 2018, with a new grant with a five-year grant cycle released late summer or early fall.

Mr. Taggart gave a refresher overview of the Troops to Teachers program.

Online Teaching Platforms

This was raised by Supt. Dunsmore at the last Quality of Life Committee meeting. Chairman Warner recalls an issue with a requisite number of courses needed before the platform could be used.

Ms. Barretto of DMVA is contacting Dr. Michael Dunsmore to speak at the full Commission meeting who can perhaps address this topic.

Military Child Interstate Compact

Mr. Taggart spoke with the Boards and Commission office. A commissioner appointment will be made to the Compact Commission for the State within a month, per PJ Connelly.

State Comprehensive Plan for Military Connected Children

The Superintendent liked the idea of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and was going to proceed with a draft revision, but Mr. Taggart does not have the most current information. He will investigate the status.

Regional Military Family Counselors

Kelly Jackson met with Jamie Livengood in Wayne County to speak with military school liaisons. She also met with Tina Paulson, whose position is federally funded – she is departing soon. Sharing information with liaisons and counselors about the Compact is needed. There is also a need to make sure other counselors know about the military liaisons as a resource. She also went to Fort Bragg and had similar conversations. Education to make sure counselors know there are resources to assist with military students is crucial. Cynthia Floyd is the lead for school counselors. Information is disseminated twice yearly to counselors to keep them apprised of information.

Chairman Warner asked Mr. Casey to reach out to identify gaps regarding special needs' dependents and whether the bases are experiencing these gaps in services. What are additional needs at installations? How do we fill gaps in resources for parents of K-12 special needs children?

NC 4 ME Grant Status

Mr. Stuart Ruffin introduced himself to the group, and briefed the Committee by telephone.

- HR professionals, transition offices, state agencies, other organizations, have joined to strategize education about hiring exiting military;
- Hiring events – interviews are set up in advance;
- 1800 senior level leaders have been educated;
- 1300th interview conducted;
- Averaging an event per month.

Go to NC4ME.org to learn more and how to get involved. Developing strategic plan for the year. There was a discussion of opportunities for mid-high level positions.

Commissioner Roberts added that his son is involved with this – interviews military and attends fairs at Lejeune and Cherry Point. He is pleased with the results.

Commissioner Stimatz added that “we give people jobs, not Frisbees” is a good tag line for NC4ME. Being on the City Council and trying to find qualified talent is a challenge. Regarding Troops to Teachers, there are lots of Assistant Managers and City Manager positions will open up because that group is aging out. this may be an area to be looked into: how to connect local government employers. The State County Commissioners Association and NC League of Municipalities are good places to start. You don’t have to have a degree; many of these opportunities call for certifications. Mr. Ruffin agrees that these are critical employers, and would like to be put in touch with someone at the League of Municipalities. Mr. Taggart mentioned an organization that deals with the school systems in the state, and it may be a good idea to present to them.

DoD Supported Best Practices for States Designed to Improve Military Quality of Life

This goes to Commissioner Stimatz’ comments about the survey. Are there materials we can tap into that other states have been working on? Mr. Casey of DMVA is working on this for AS Kelly. Mr. Ruffin stated Mr. Kevin Bruch is the South Atlantic regional liaison from the DoD Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Defense for Military Community and Family Policy and is the SME on this matter. He is will provide contact information to Kelly Jackson and Willey Casey and Chairman Warner.

New Community and Base Supported Measures

VTC’s. Mr. Mark Teachey invites the Committee to see the Court in action, open every Wednesday from 2pm until 4:30pm. Judge Lee heard much of this conversation, but had to leave.

Harnett was established in 2013, Cumberland in 2014, Buncombe in 2015 and Forsyth County is the most recent. He cited the following statistics:

- Cumberland County is applying for a federal grant
- Buncombe County did a documentary with UNC-Asheville on value of Veterans Treatment Court – they are applying for a federal grant
- Forsyth is building its team with 6 or 7 veterans in the program
- All operate under Governor’s Crime Commission grants
- Eastern District Federal Magistrate court out of Bragg receives training to establish a program, there
- Guilford, Brunswick, Moore, New Hanover and Wayne are establishing VTC’s
- Working on and off with Onslow to get a VTC established there.
- Harnett Regional Court is in 4th quarter of year one of \$1.7 million federal grant and has hired a full-time director, case manager, compliance and drug testing officers, e.g.

- Average veteran age is 32 with the youngest being 21, oldest being 74; average rank is E4. 80% are soldiers and Marines fighting on the ground. Mechanics and transporters are the most impacted
- Most have served multiple tours, most have served in the Middle East
- 50% are from the Army – of that 20% are from the National Guard
- 20% are Marine Corps, 5% from the Navy, 5% from the Air Force, 5% from the Coast Guard
- 92% of vets that enter the court have PTSD or mental health issues
- 75% have alcohol or substance abuse issues
- 40% have concurring issues
- If we work with them through 5 phases of the program, by phase 4, the percentage of vets violating sobriety is down to 2%
- 26% of vets are not registered with the VA – a federally-developed grant can reach those vets and vets with discharges other than honorable, and dishonorable
- Other organizations participate – for each dollar invested, \$27 is saved; last year an estimated \$1.4 million was saved with volunteers and interns helping
- Goal is to bring on 45 additional veterans
- Vets travel from Onslow and Lenoir County to access Harnett County VTC
- Recovery Track cloud-based user system, protects PII, user friendly
- Remote alcohol testing by compliance officer
- Recently awarded a vet a 90-day sobriety dog tag
- This is harder than probation; veterans that come through VTC's want help
- 0% recidivism rate
- Long-term funding sustainment is critical

Commissioner/Acting Vice Chairman Breece added that Cumberland is following Harnett's lead and experiencing great results, adding his gratitude to Mr. Teachey for his work.

Cell phone/Wi-Fi On-base enhancements – Chairman Warner understands this is an issue for those taking online courses; better cell phone coverage is needed. He posed this to Paul Friday and to Bragg for solutions to this issue. Chairman Warner asked if anyone present has clarity; he would like to raise this to the Commanders' Council. Commissioner Stimatz noted that Pasquotank is a poor county that has difficulty accessing the Web. For kids, it's crucial to their education. They must have the bandwidth to go online or risk falling behind. He added spouses are looking for information like service providers and the ability to stay interconnected.

Commissioner/Acting Vice Chairman Breece added that his wife is a Dept. Chair in Fayetteville and has heard of similar challenges. This should be of interest to the Commanders' Council.

Public-Private project opportunities - Real ID

Mr. Jim Semmens of Division of Motor Vehicles provided a brief and handout to the Committee.

- Charles Grady (mobile unit) and Troy Cunningham of the NC DMV are in attendance with Mr. Semmens and are SME's on Real ID
- In 2005, states were mandated to become Real ID compliant by October 2020
- NC is compliant for having put 28 safety measures in the ID card on the back end making it impossible to forge
- Offers ease of access to commercial flights, allows access to federal buildings and military installations – in October 2020 TSA will turn customers away if they do not have a Real ID compliant card or other form of ID like a passport, social security card, etc.
- Since May 1, 2017 more than 35,000 card have been issued to NC customers, however, there are 9.5 million more to complete, causing the need to prompt the transition to Real ID using mobile units to avoid backlogs in DMV offices
- Fort Bragg has availed themselves of this service and have had 30,000 Real ID's issued
- This is voluntary, currently
- To register, bring in the same documents used to obtain a driver's license and one additional form of ID, i.e., proof of age and identity: Driver's license, certified birth certificate, DMV driving record, Social Security card (or a tax form, such as a W2, with full name and Social Security number) AND Proof of address: Utility or cable bill, military documents, school records, car insurance policy. 2 forms of residence verification are needed. Any documents issued by federal, North Carolina or local government. Housing lease or mortgage, letter from homeless shelter. For non-citizens, any federal document that indicates legal presence
- 18 Mobile units are available to come to your place of business, and do all that is done in a DMV office
- With all required documents, statewide average time to process is 11 minutes
- You must pay a duplicate fee if your license is not in a renewal period
- As of November 2017, anyone trying to board an installation without a military ID, must have a Real ID.

Mr. Semmens will make available Real ID posters for advertisements in government and military offices along with 18 mobile units for accessibility to customers. Not having a Real ID can result in delays in visiting loved ones in a correctional facility, contractors and vendors getting on bases, military that travel to other installations, etc.

Mr. Stimatz commented with respect to a matter that may be more of a public-public pursuit, the Coast Guard is going to renovate their main runway, which will result in a shutdown of the airport. NC DOT is eager to do this and has been supportive. This is approximately \$5million-dollar to \$6million-dollar project.

Having received the federal updates from Mr. Simmons and Mr. Taggart, Chairman Warner asked if there were public comments.

Commissioner/Acting Vice Chairman Breece commented that the work of the Committee is clearly substantive, that the meeting was very good and thanked Commissioner Roberts for being on the call although not feeling well.