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In this month's edition of On Point, COVID-19 remains the top priority and a main focus as the Department aims to point veterans, active duty service members, and their families towards resources they need.

DMVA On Point Newsletter highlights the Department's month of activities and profiles partner agencies, departments, and community activities centered around helping the state of North Carolina's active duty military community and veteran population. Check out the website at www.milvets.nc.gov

NC DMVA Welcomes Secretary Walter Gaskin



Secretary LtGen Walter Gaskin -North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Lieutenant General Walter Gaskin is currently serving as the Secretary for the North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Lieutenant General Gaskin has served on the



North Carolina Military Affairs Commission. From 2010 until his retirement from the United States Marine Corps in 2013, LtGen Gaskin served as the Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium, providing strategic military counsel on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya to NATO's Secretary General and North Atlantic Council.

See Full Bio



NC DMVA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operations & Procedures

The NC Department of Military And Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all veterans, their families, our staff and the general public during this pandemic. The Department is committed to providing updates on a continuing basis and will make changes to operations and procedures as we monitor the outbreak.

See here direct links to <u>Governor Cooper's office</u>, and the North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services <u>COVID-19 dashboard</u>. Please continue to monitor these websites and stay vigilant as this crisis still unfolds.

Click Here



North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

Governor Cooper Announces Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions as North Carolina Trends Stabilize

Governor Roy Cooper announced yesterday that the state will carefully ease some of it's COVID-19 restrictions, contingent upon the state's numbers continued improvement and increase vaccine distribution. Executive Order No. 195 will take effect February 26th at 5pm and expire March 26th.

Click Here

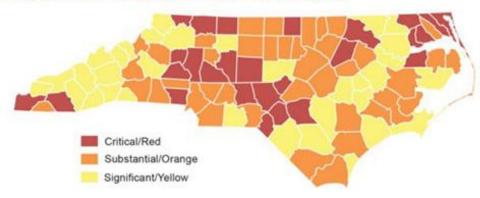
From the NC DHHS



COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

NC UPDATE

NC Counties by Tier: Data from January 31 through February 13, 2021



A complete list of counties and their metrics is listed at the end of the report, including the previous tier and current tier.

County Metrics

The COVID-19 County Alert System uses a combination of metrics to determine whether a county meets criteria to be in the red or orange tier. These metrics provide information about the amount of viral spread and hospital impact in the county.

For the complete report **Click Here**

NC State Veterans Homes - Receive Customer Experience Award

Amongst the leaders in satisfaction measurement for post-acute care, congratulations to: North Carolina State Veterans Home - Black Mountain, Fayetteville, Kinston, and Salisbury for

satisfying the rigorous demand of scoring in the top 15% of the nation across a 12-month average and has received the 2021 Pinnacle Customer Experience Award™.

Click Here





Young 18 yr. old, Samuel Boyd - Curtesy of WRAL.com

NC State Veteran Home -Fayetteville Resident Receives Congressional Gold Medal

Samuel Boyd - Montfort Point Marine

Three quarters of a century in the making, Samuel Boyd of Belhaven, North Carolina and proud Montford Point Marine, receives a long overdue honor of the Congressional Gold Metal.

Read the WRAL Tar Heel Traveler story of this remarkable soldier, and a son's mission to honor his father.

Click Here

The Black Experience: Nursing assistant at State Veterans Home Fayetteville started by caring for father (The Fayetteville Observer)

Read about NC State Veterans Home, and Fayetteville nursing assistant, Viviane Davis in how caring for her ailing father, diverse cultural up-bringing, and love for her African-American heritage, brought her to the loving place of helping others.

Click Here



Viviane Davis Andrew Craft, The Fayetteville Observer

Recognition of the Inter-Agency Coordinator for Military Affairs Division

NC DMVA Military Affairs Division would like to applaud the efforts and projects overseen by Mr. Gregory Bathea, Inter-Agency Coordinator. Over the past several months Gregory has worked with our collaborative partners Elizabeth City State University and NC Museum of History in bringing together two amazing projects:



Hall of Firsts Nomination Portal Hall of Firsts | Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (nc.gov) and African American Military and Veteran Lineage Project Documentary: "In the Face of Adversity the Service and Legacy of African American Veterans of WWII In the Face of Adversity The Service and Legacy of African American Veterans of WWII - YouTube . We take a moment to recognize Gregory for all his contributions to the NC DMVA and ensuring the State of North Carolina remains the most military-veteran state in the Nation.

Special Attention

Hall of First collaboration between NC DMVA and NC Museum of History

In years past, the North Carolina Museum of History has worked closely with the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Together we have brought attention and recognition to the great military members of our state. In June of 2021, the museum will open the display doors on a new military exhibit that will highlight the accomplishments of North Carolinians while serving our country.



North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts



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Events

February 2021 Events

- Feb 27 4th Annual Dale Beatty Memorial 5K
- Feb 27 Bridge I Sports Archery Air Rifle, Durham
- Feb 28 USO MVP Champion JJ Watt

March 2021 Events

- Mar 1 <u>USO Independent Wellness Summit</u>
- Mar 2 USO Nutrition Month Challenge
- Mar 3 Virtual Veterans Coffee with former POW Ret USAF Col Norman McDaniel
- Mar 4 VAs Widow and Survivor Benefits Information Virtual Outreach Event
- Mar 7 USO Skyway 10K
- Mar 8-12 Entrepreneur Boot Camp 2021
- Mar 9 Nutrition Month Challenge
- Mar 10 USOs MVP Champions Nick Saban
- Mar 15-19 Patriots Path Workshop



DMVA Public Service Announcement

Cemeteries

Interments scheduled on or after January 22, will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

Listed below are guidelines to follow until further notice. Please advise your local funeral homes regarding these changes.

- Services are 30 minutes, Monday Friday, at 10am, 12pm, 2pm. Family and attendees must exit the cemetery at the conclusion of the service.
- Caskets & urns must be thoroughly disinfected before entering the cemetery.
- Up to 50 attendees are permitted at committal services. This does include funeral staff or Military Honor Guards.
- Cemetery chairs or podium will not be placed at the committal area.
- Next of Kin information will be given to funeral staff.
- Attendees aren't permitted to handle or touch caskets or urns before, during or after the service.
- Attendees not of the same household must maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from each other. Masks and frequent use of hand sanitizer are required. Sick individuals are asked not to attend.
- Funeral flower arrangements are not permitted to be left during the committal service, but, families or funeral staff may place one arrangement after all services for the day.
- Attendees must depart the cemetery at half past the hour.
- Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at later date when restrictions have been lifted.







NC DMVA | www.milvets.nc.gov