



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

### **Minutes for Executive Steering Group (ESG) Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, November 3, 2020**

**Microsoft Teams/984-204-1487 Code: 244 193 191#**

#### **Members Present**

Grier Martin, Chairman  
Frank Bottorff, Base Sustainability, Chair  
Kirk Warner, Quality of Life, Chair  
David Hayden, Economic Dev, Chair  
Sally-Ann Gupta A/R Sen Brown,  
Legislative Affairs Chair

#### **Additional Attendees**

Larry Coleman, NC National Guard  
Chad Sydnor, Cassidy, and Associates  
Christopher Hailey, LA to Grier Martin  
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

#### **Members Not Present**

Senator Harry Brown  
Hon Chuck Allen, Installation Area

#### **OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN GRIER MARTIN**

Chairman Grier Martin called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Chairman Martin welcomed everyone to the Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting and thanked everyone for all of their hard work. He said that the ones on this call drive the train for the NCMAC and are very generous with their time. He asked Kelly Jackson to take the roll call and let him know if there was a quorum. She said that they had a quorum for this meeting, 4 of 6 members. Kirk Warner gave the member a briefing on the conflict of interest. He asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to any of the issues coming before this meeting. If so, this is the time to raise that. Chairman Martin asked if anyone on this call have any possible conflict of interest regarding anything that is on the agenda or may come before us. If so, please speak now or later if needed.

#### **CONSENT MINUTES: CHAIRMAN GRIER MARTIN**

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting held on August 6, 2020. Kelly Jackson said that she made one administrative change on page one. She changed 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter to 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. David Hayden made a motion to approve the minutes. Kirk Warner seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: SECRETARY LARRY HALL**

Secretary Hall was not able to attend the meeting.

#### **QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) COMMITTEE: KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner said that the QOL committee met on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. It was a very good meeting. We had approximately 24 attendee for this meeting. There were 7 Commission members and a variety of attendees from the Schools and Systems. We had a great discussion about the Stop

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Movement Order. Particularly in the K-12 area we talked about enrollment of students that are supposed to come in but have not been able to do that. Also, those that are supposed to leave and have not been able to do that. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has approved the remote registration and participation in the on-line participation in school. So, for the families that are supposed to be conducting a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) into North Carolina, the children are able to participate as if they were there at the school, even though they have not stepped foot in North Carolina. The other issue that has come up and is not just a military issue is the uptick in behavioral health issues with both the Stop Movement Order and on-line classes. In Moore County, Rollie Sampson said that they had a suicide intervention program. Part of this is student screening. She noticed that 2/3 of the students that needed to be screened were military connected students, but they are not 2/3 of the student population. This is something we need to keep our eye on. We have reached out to others on the QOL committee to look at these social programs to see how we can deal with some of this. We are also sending out a couple of questions to the NC Commander's Council for their next meeting. The questions are not just from the quality of life aspect but how is the remote schooling going and affecting the mission at all? This is a mission readiness question. Then if there is, is there something the Commission can do to help with the issues. We want to hear from the Commanders and the impact on mission readiness and family readiness. This was the one big focus from the meeting and the stop movement order.

We also had a report from Nick Sojka, Commissioner for the NC Interstate Compact. He is also the General Counsel and Board Attorney for Cumberland County Schools. He has been representing school systems in Southeastern NC as an attorney for close to 30 years. He has some familiarity with the Compact and the unique issues that military families face. He attended the National MIC3 meeting: One of the major issues at that meeting was the possible inclusion of our National Guard and Reserve families under the Compact. That is an issue that is going to continue to be studied at the National level

Other items that were talked about was the Purple Star program and that is well underway. We are one of ten states with the award program. Last year NC awarded 132 schools to include a few Charter Schools. Purple Up Day will be April 16, 2021. This was decided by the Installations from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune, Fort Bragg, and Cherry Point are all using this as their Purple Up Day. We also talk about Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) and what is going on Nationally with that topic. Patricia Harris will be leading a team on that topic.

Chairman Martin asked if there are any action items from the Quality of Life Committee for the agenda? Kirk Warner said that we would like to have a presentation from Howard Lattimore to talk about the mental health issues that they are dealing with on the installations and also Nick Sojka to give a quick update on the Compact. These would be about 10-15 minutes total if time allows. Chairman Martin asked Kirk Warner about the NC Commander's Council and checking in with them. Do we have adequate lines of communication with the NC Commander's Council beyond their quarterly meetings? Kirk Warner said that he thought so. He said that Bryan Ayers and others are part of the Quality of Life meetings and they know the issues that are talked about. We have sent the questions to Bryan Ayers that we want asked to the Commander's. What are the effects of the Stop Movement Order on mission readiness? It will be interesting to see what feedback that we get from them at the NC Commander's Council. The second question is what can we do to help? Chairman Martin also asked if there was

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anything on the horizon that they needed to get to the General Assembly so they will have time to act? Kirk Warner said that he will have to go back and look to see if there was one about debt collections and that had broad support at the time. Rep George Cleveland attended our last meeting and we talked about those items. Chairman Martin said that all of the committees needed to review any legislation that they wanted to go before the General Assembly.

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: SALLY-ANN GUPTA**

Sally-Ann Gupta said that Legislative Affairs committee did not meet this quarter due to the General Assembly not being in session and no new business to address.

She does want to take this opportunity to introduce an idea for your approval for the Full Commission meeting. She has been in conversation with Senator Jim Burgin who represents Johnston, Lee, and Harnett Counties. One of the things that she has been doing behind the scenes is discussing, in the wake of Senator Brown's retirement, how can we ensure continuity of support for military related legislation in the other chamber (Senate) where she works. Senator Burgin has a bill, that was introduced this past session and had bi-partisan support but did not make it over the finish line. It will be his primary order of business to re-introduce it next session and he is putting a lot of momentum behind it. This past session it was Senate Bill 188, Military Retirement Tax Relief but he will re-introduce it. This is a perennial issue for the NCMAC. All of our members ask what we are doing about this topic. Why can't we have this in NC when other states have this? Senator Burgin has met with multiple stake holders which also includes civil servants and non-military members who want to see their retirements not subject to state income tax. He has a bill that would satisfy military, civil servants and state retirees but starts with military first. It would start with the military tax exemption. This will move in stages from there depending on revenue collection benchmarks that are met by the State, subsequent to first exempting the military retirement tax pay. She knows that he is keen for NCMAC support for this bill. He believes that he has the support of all of the Chief stakeholders in this conversation. She thought that in light of his expression to her, not only for this bill but also for military related legislation in general he wants to be behind that in the future and champion that in the Senate. She thought that at the next Full Commission meeting would be a good opportunity for him to showcase his bill in advance of next session. To present it to you all and straight from the horse's mouth. This will be his opportunity to answer any questions that any of the Commission members may have about it before they decide whether or not to lean their support, hopefully to a resolution of support. She thought it would be important for the Commission members to hear from him personally and he could address any questions directly about the bill. She is hoping that the ESG will approve 5-10 minutes on the agenda for the Full Commission meeting.

Chairman Martin asked her if she had any sense that with Senator Brown's retirement, and assuming that Senator Burger is still the appointing authority next year, do you think that he may appoint Senator Burgin to take Senator Brown's spot on the NCMAC? Sally-Ann Gupta said that was a good question. She does not know how the appointments go at that level. She said that if anyone were asking her, she would say that he would be a great fit. It also dovetails off of something that Kirk Warner had said when he was giving his update. She said that Kirk Warner talked about the behavioral health issues for military kids. She knows that from her conversation with Senator Burgin that two of his biggest issues are mental health issues and military issues. As Kirk Warner was speaking, she wrote down some notes

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to ask Senator Burgin to contact Kirk Warner about legislation for this. She thinks that he would be a great fit for the Commission. But there could be other people who are interest in that spot too. She said that maybe Senator Perry would be interested also. She is not sure who will be put into that spot. Chairman Martin asked Sally-Ann Gupta to check with Senator Brown to see if he would be interested in engaging to find his potential replacement, to ensure that Senator Burger will appoint someone good. Sally-Ann Gupta said that she knows the staff member in Senator Berger's office who handles all of the Boards and Commission appointments, so she can ask him as well whether or not there has been any discussion on that topic. She thinks that it is important, post- election before we get into the new session for this commission to know who their person is going to be in the Senate on this. Chairman Martin said that would be wonderful.

Chairman Martin said that the taxation legislation is probably unanimous and something that NCMAC is in unanimous support. The only caution that he has is that any legislation like that has had difficulty getting passed in the General Assembly previously is not going to get passed until it has gone through dozens of revisions, so that any bill that gets passed is going to look very different than anything that would be presented to the NCMAC. We need to consider that in how we craft any further Resolution of Support. He said that Representative Cleveland could have legislation to offer that could be different from the Senate legislation or there could be other Senators that do it too. His point is that present company accepted, politicians have fragile egos, and we get very attached to our bills. He would like to ensure that the NCMAC does not do anything that is going to anger another legislator. That does not mean that we can't come back and do a Resolution of Support for additional legislation but he thought it might make sense to just go ahead and aim as much as possible to pass a Resolution that shows our support for general legislation that would bring about taxation relief on retired military pay. Sally-Ann Gupta said that made good sense and could be crafted as a more general resolution that you speak of in advance of the next Full Commission meeting. It could also wait until the new legislation session has begun. She does think that it would be a good opportunity for Senator Burgin just to share with you, the people that he has spoken to and the support that he has. She knows that there will be a companion bill in the House of Representatives for this legislation. So, this shows that the lead up to this is organized and coordinated. Chairman Martin said that he wanted to give this topic some attention and he thinks that Sally-Ann Gupta's proposal is a good way to do that and refocus the NCMAC on that topic. He said that David Hayden had done a lot of work on this issues also. He wondered if it made sense to throw it in the mix right now, about 15 minutes at the meeting. Leave it open to presentation on upcoming bills and then have David Hayden update the Commission members on what he has done. Then also if there is someone from the House of Representatives who is going to sponsor the House companion bill. Then we can talk about the issue and get an idea about what one type of legislation could look like. Maybe we can then have a discussion of the pros and cons. Then maybe we could do a Resolution of General support or do it at another meeting. Kirk Warner said that made a lot of sense because this is a core issue for us and what we are supposed to be doing. We do not have to have the exact language for the draft bill. We can talk about the concept and what the structure could look like. Then we could solicit input from the Commission. He cannot imagine a better opportunity to discuss and it will be helpful for the sponsors to hear this discussion.

David Hayden said that his first question when Sally-Ann Gupta was talking about Senator Burgin attending the Full Commission meeting, has Rep Cleveland seen this? He is in principle, in support or

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not. He thinks that is the groundwork that needs to be done before hand. He also said that Representative John Szoka maybe one of the folks from the House of Representatives that is signing that. If Senator Burgin is going to come in and doing this from the Senator side, he does not know how hard it will be to get someone from the House to come in and speak. They could be coming at it differently. He thinks that first and foremost, Rep Cleveland is on our Commission and we need to know his thoughts ahead of time. He does not want to set Senator Burgin up for an ambush. He said if there is a solution out there as Sally-Ann Gupta has described, then he thinks it has a great chance to be a success. He thinks that we can very easily support this with a very general statement. It would not be hard at all. He thinks that everyone agrees, and we have talked about this a number of times. In principle, to grant a military retired pay state tax exemption is long overdue. We can mention to the Senator that we are state number 32 to have done this for the most military friendly state. Having the Representative there at the same time would be good but we need to know what they are going to say and what they think ahead of time. He does not want the Senator to step on the Houses toes on this matter. Sally-Ann Gupta said that she believed that Rep Szoka would be the sponsor in the House of the companion bill. She does understand not wanting to step on any toes of any competing House legislation. She also does not want to set anyone up for confrontational questions if there is a competing bill. If you do want Senator Burgin to speak on this, he could reach out to his House companion bill sponsor and invite him to be on the call as well. She said that as a staff person she cannot imagine that a legislator would not want to have the opportunity to promote a signature bill before an esteemed audience as the Commission.

Chairman Martin said that we needed to block of 15 minutes and put that time in the Economic Development's committee report. He asked David Hayden to work with Sally-Ann Gupta on how this would work. Sally-Ann Gupta said that she thinks that this sounds good.

Sally-Ann Gupta said that she had one more item. This could be her last Executive Steering Group meeting and also last Commission meeting. Her job has been attached to Senator Brown's office and this time in office is fast approaching its end. Since she has the small group here, the core of the NCMAC she wanted to tell everyone that this has been the best part of her job for the last five years supporting his Commission. It has been so meaningful to her and she is sorry that it is ending through Microsoft Teams and not in person. She enjoys seeing everyone when we have our meetings. It has been a pleasure to work with this Commission and for this Commission. Chairman Martin said that it had been a joy to have her on the Commission and she has been a core member of this group. He also said that we owe a debt of gratitude to Senator Harry Brown for delegating Sally-Ann Gupta to the Commission and she has brought a ton of energy, intellect, and companion to the Commission. Whatever the General Assembly looks like for the next biennium and whoever is running the show, they would do well to keep her engaged in this process if possible. It will be hard to see the Commission doing their job without her. We know that you have other demands on your time from your day job and a growing family. We appreciate all that you have done for this Commission. Sally-Ann Gupta said that she thanked the Chairman for those kind words. She will continue on supporting the Commission through December 31, 2020. She asked David Hayden to give her some direction once they talk off-line about how they need to proceed with inviting Senator Burgin and his House counterpart to speak. Then she will let their offices know how to move forward.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: DAVID HAYDEN**

David Hayden said that they met on October 13, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. We had a quorum and had a budget update. Then we had an update from Jamie Norment about what is going on out East at Cherry Point and Fleet Readiness Center-East. They have received a lot of funding from hurricane Florence and other funding. They are working on three major projects at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS). The F-35 hangar, fitness center and redoing a gate entrance. He said that a company called Draken is moving to the Global Trans Park (GTP) to support Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. That is bringing in a lot of jobs. The Navy is also moving to a hangar there. He also mentioned that Hugh Overholt, who is a retired Judge Advocate General in the Army has been re-appointed to the Board of Transportation by Speaker Tim Moore. He also said that Mike McIntyre has also joined Ward & Smith and is a former Congressman.

We also got an update from Fort Bragg by Arnold Gordon-Bray. He talked about Camp Mackall. They are putting in floating solar panels. They also received funding to renovate 6 barracks. The one down note was that the Department of Transportation did not received the Build Grant for \$24 M to repair the outer training loop at Fort Bragg. The Department of Transportation is seeking other funding sources to do that. He did ask that we have the new Fort Bragg Garrison Commander attend the next Economic Development Committee meeting. That could be someone who will also be attending the NCMAC. If he does there could be an opportunity for him to speak and give the Commission an update. We heard from Scott Dorney and they are planning for their first virtual Infrastructure Summit. They normally have this event in Wilmington, NC and have 700 attendees and vendors. Funding for fiscal year 2020 is expected to exceed the amazing funding we had for fiscal year 2019. We also heard from Will Best. One of their projects was to support the Veterans Life Center (VLC). It is now open. He also talked about a new partnership with NC State University. The Committee also received an update from Denny Lewis for Economic Development Partnership for NC (EDPNC). The talked about the proposal to take some of the funding that we give EDPNC that is not being used due to COVID for marketing. The final presentation was from Dr. Stephen Lee for the Army Research Office (ARO) which does research and development in the triangle area. We also talked about the military retiree tax exemption. We are going to take a step back on this topic. We are not going to be doing a grant but complete a statement of work and conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP). David Hayden said that he is in the process of writing that Statement of Work (SOW) for the RFP. We will also be working on an RFP for the Defense Alliance of North Carolina budget item. We cannot do this as a sole source so we will work with the purchasing and contracting to get this RFP completed.

David Hayden said that he has had a conversation with Greg Lusk, the former Adjutant General for NC. He is now on the NC Employment Task Force. He is working to find work for military veterans. He put him in touch with NC4ME. He also asked to attend the January Economic Development Committee meeting and do a presentation at the meeting. His last item is about the National Guard Association of the United State (NGAUS) convention that will be hosted in Charlotte, NC in September 10-12, 2021. Larry Coleman, NC National Guard Association Executive Director has shared information with David Hayden about the convention. David Hayden said that there are opportunities for the NCMAC to have sponsorship for the convention. There has been some support from Commission members to support this event and also to have a presence there. The Chairman had asked David Hayden to write up a

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couple of words as to why he thinks this is beneficial to the Commission, which he has provided to the Chairman. If we plan to do something like this we need to talk about it at the next Commission meeting.

He thinks that there are a lot of benefits for the Commission to be a part of this convention. This is very similar to the Association of the United States (AUSA) conference that is held in DC. Chairman Martin said that the NGAUS convention is a great event and does seem to be in-line with our mission. If people or groups do not know that we are here then we cannot be as helpful. He asked Larry Coleman to tell the group what is in it for us. Larry Coleman said that the biggest thing is the military industry that will be attending the convention. This will be an opportunity for the public relations part that everyone will see who partners for this event are. There are a lot of key decision makers for the National Guard that will be attending this event. We will have the Charlotte convention center and many opportunities for this Commission to interact with the military industry that attend. He has sent David Hayden sponsorship information for the commission to review. Chairman Martin asked if there were signage opportunities for the Commission. Larry Coleman said that information was in the packet he sent to David Hayden. Chairman Martin said that he wants the Commission to consider this at the Full Commission meeting and asked David Hayden to discuss this during his Economic Development time. Chairman Martin said that he thought we needed to go to the Commission meeting with a dollar amount in mind. He asked David Hayden if he had any thoughts about a dollar amount? David Hayden said that he would look at this again and he will be ready to make a case for a certain level. He will get that recommendation together and send to Chairman Martin for review. Chairman Martin asked David Hayden to consult with Frank Bottorff on that matter. Kirk Warner asked when do we need this committee ready? Larry Coleman said that the unspoken decision point is around March 2021. You have time to make a decision. Sally-Ann Gupta said that if this is going to be presented to the Full Commission, we may need to consult the legislative language and make sure that the spending on this does fit into one of the buckets. So, if anyone has any concerns we have checked that out first and under what provision. Chairman Martin said that was a good idea to check our governing principles. Frank Bottorff said that maybe we could talk to Economic Development for NC (EDPNC) and if we had some type of a banner that we could hang somewhere that would say something like NC Military Affairs Commission in partnership with EDPNC welcomes you to the most friendly State. That could be part of the outreach to the military related business that attend the convention. That might be the best angle to go. He is not sure that we need to have our own table. If you have a table you will need to man the table and have information to hand out. Kirk Warner said one of the items at the table could be the strategic plan.

Kirk Warner had one more question for David Hayden. He said that the QOL committee was interested in the Fort Bragg loop information and asked David Hayden to keep him update on the progress for the loop project. David Hayden said that he would keep him updated and if the Fort Bragg Garrison Commander attends their next meeting he will ask him about that topic also. He also asked Chairman Martin about post-election results. He thought it would be a good idea to get an update from Chad Sydnor and Jim McCleskey on the post-election results impacts. Chairman Martin said this was a good idea and asked Chad Sydnor to work with Jim McCleskey on this update.

**BASE SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (BS&CA) COMMITTEE: FRANK BOTTORFF**

Frank Bottorff said that the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee met on October 27,

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2020. We talked about the budget and grants, but he will address those items later. We had an update from Ron Massey on the Census which has wrapped up at this point. Now we will go into the next phase which will be opportunities for us to challenge the data results after it has been reviewed. One of the recommendations is to have Bob Coats give the Commission an update on the Census. We also got an

update from Sentinel Landscapes by Dewitt Hardee and they are making some progress but COVID has affected what they do. It is time for the Commission to look at the Sentinel Landscapes renewal. We also got an update from Will Best for the Department of Commerce. The Matrix Design Group continues to work with the Dare Bombing Range Compatible Use Implementation Plan. He also talked about an announcement from Pratt & Whitney for Asheville, NC of 800 new jobs and adding a one million dollar expansion facility for air foils mainly tied to fixed wing and some helicopters. Triple Aught Design or TAD Gear which is a popular clothing design and touches the military. They are expanding in Old Fort, NC and adding 70 jobs. The installation updates were from David Myers and he said that Congressman Walker did a Camp Lejeune visit which went very well.

### **FINANCE AND BUDGET TASK FORCE: FRANK BOTTORFF**

Frank Bottorff gave a budget presentation to the group. He said that at the last meeting we had covered the budget and that is also in the minutes from this meeting that was just approved. He will now cover expenditures to date which is \$163,033.12. That includes the lobbying contract, EDPNC and a couple of small amounts for stipend, travel, and the Association for Defense Communities (ADC) fee. All expenditures are in accordance with the plan.

Several of our recurring expenses have annual renewals. We could have a full agenda if we decide to have those organizations that we support, actually present for this quarter. They all have to be done before the next meeting. They include Cassidy & Associates, Sentinel Landscapes, EDPNC and NC4ME. We had talked about getting briefs from them before we approve the renewal. The Sentinel Landscapes and EDPNC are Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) and NC4ME is a sole source item. Cassidy & Associates is a contract, and we are in the final option year for this contract. Besides those four organizations we have the Defense Alliance of NC project that we will be writing into a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Department of Administration, Purchasing & Contracting office did not accept the paperwork that was submitted as a sole source. He said that David Hayden covered the other RFP and that is for a tax exemption study potential with the College system. Kelly Jackson said for this RFP, there is an opportunity to develop an MOU with the UNC system for this project. David Hayden asked if he needed to continue to write a Scope of Work (SOW) for this project. Kelly Jackson said that we will still need a SOW and tasks/deliverables. We need to have our expectations in writing. Frank Bottorff said that we do not need a brief on that yet since we will not be ready with that yet. We need to request a presentation from Sentinel Landscapes, EDPNC, Cassidy & Associates and NC4ME at the NCMAC meeting. This will be an update and re-pitch for renewal. Kirk Warner said he thought it was time for Sentinel Landscapes to give their presentation. Chairman Martin asked how much time was needed for each group. Frank Bottorff said that Sentinel Landscapes would need 15 minutes and the other groups 10 minutes. He said that Cassidy & Associates could wrap it into their quarterly presentation. Chad Sydnor said that they could wrap it into their quarterly brief. He will wrap into the presentation their past performance. Frank Bottorff told him to remind the Commission of the benefits that we get from the work they do and the partnership that we have.

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**INSTALLATION COORDINATOR UPDATES: CHAIRMAN MARTIN**

Chairman Martin asked the Installation coordinators if they had any comments.

Kirk Warner said that the big item for Fort Bragg was the stop movement order and they would continue to work that issue.

Frank Bottorff said that David Hayden gave a good update for Cherry Point. They have received \$20M for hurricane Florence repair reimbursement. This bring their total to \$42M for hurricane recovery and covers their losses to the most part. They have worked with Senator Tillis' office on this which has been a great help. There is a lot going on with the introduction of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Squadron. So, when you go to Cherry Point it is huge. They had a visit from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Jim Balochi, and the Deputy Commandant for Installations. The Deputy for Aviation Jim Wise has had meetings with personnel from Cherry Point and the future of Aviation. The touch points around Cherry Point are JSF and the budget. There has been some discussion about wind farms and the permitting process. So, there will be more discussion about the permitting process and whether they will impact Cherry Point or Seymour Johnson.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: FRANK BOTTORFF**

Frank Bottorff said the Strategic Plan is complete and a living document. We can start working on revisions. We have printed copies of the plan and any member of the Commission can get copies if they want some. He is proud that we got this document completed by ourselves. This was a document for the members by the members and it has been delivered to the State Legislature as required. Kelly Jackson said that she had emailed the document to the Joint Oversight Committee for General Government on Thursday, October 29,2020. The due date was Sunday, November 1, 2020. She also sent a copy to Chairman Martin and Vice Chairman Bottorff. She will also plan to take a copy to all of the Legislators in the General Assembly.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS: FRANK BOTTORFF**

Frank Bottorff said that there are two different grant cycles going on right now. The first one started a couple of years ago and there are 2 awardees. They are the Cherry Point locality one and that was for Carteret County and Allies for Cherry Point Tomorrow (ACT). There project is complete, the deliverable has been delivered and the last invoice is in. They just need to clean up the paperwork with the State at this point to close out the grant. The second grantee was the City of Jacksonville. Their project was saltwater intrusion wells in the area. There is a delay with the contractor and the well is not complete at this point. They have been working with the Program Manager from the State to make sure the proper extension was done. We are done talking about these two grants at the Commission meetings.

The Grant Review Committee (GRC) met for the review of this grant cycle. The applications were submitted a couple of weeks ago. We had three grant submissions for this cycle. The grant applications were from the City of Fayetteville for a digital information kiosk. They are the large double sided electronic boards that you can see at malls or other venues. There is a wide range of information that can be put on the boards from the community or the Installation. The second grant application was from Fayetteville State University (FSU) which was to conduct a survey for exiting active duty soldiers to determine where they plan to reside after leaving the service, factors in that decision and get the

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soldier's perspective which changes in NC legislative decisions are likely to change their post service decisions. The third grant application was from Homefront Room Revival which is from the Goldsboro area. They are a non-profit 501(C) (3) to provide military families with creative outlets to improve resiliency and enrich the military life cycle. These are the 3 grants, two from the Fayetteville area and one from the Goldsboro area. The grants totaled \$129,000.

The City of Fayetteville self-serve digital kiosk project is to have one kiosk indoor and one outdoor. Double-sided LED screens that can be divided into advertisement. The total project for the City of Fayetteville is \$91,880. The community members (City of Fayetteville, Cool Springs Downtown District, Arts Council, Fayetteville/Cumberland County Convention and Visitor Bureau, and Public Works Commission) are all putting \$5,000 each for a total of \$25,000 as the match. They are asking for \$66,880 for the grant. They have two courses of action. One of them will be near the Arts Council and the other one on Fort Bragg at the Post Exchange and they are still trying to get permission from the Fort Bragg Lawyers for that to happen. If they do not get permission from Fort Bragg to have it on base then the second kiosk will be placed at the Fayetteville, Airport. The GRC liked and accepted this idea but they did not like the idea of both of the kiosks being off base. If one of the kiosks is on base, then this is directed toward the military community. If both are off base, they do have many in the community that are military but more of a stretch. Yes, with caveats. We want one of them on base and want to work that out.

The next grant request was from FSU and transitioning soldiers. The GRC did think this was a good project and the cost of the grant is \$19,444 with an in-kind match of computer support and other things. No direct cash but a grant request \$14,144. The GRC did like this request but the questions where they wanted to ensure that it did specifically include questions regarding to the importance of taxing military retirement and does that affect your relocation decisions. That fits in with what we are trying to do anyway. The second thing is they wanted him to contact FSU to see if they would put together an expanded proposal that would include them working with the other installations or military services within NC for the same questionnaire. Just to cast the net a little broader. He has not made that call yet. The grant is good but expanding it would hopefully be better.

The third grant request was from Homefront Room Revival and their purpose is to provide military families with creative outlets to improve resiliency and enrich the military life cycle. They are a member of the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the military. It is a proactive program for mental health and wellness through outreach and the Arts. They are already working on Seymour Johnson AFB and part of their match is that Seymour Johnson AFB is donating them 2100 SF of working space for them to work out of. They are a non-profit organization, working on the installation and helping military families. The purpose of the grant is to grow the program activities and its creative arts, life skills and social workshops series. This brings in the Airmen and their families and help them to get a better quality of life. When you transfer to a new location you feel lonely and this is part of the inclusiveness program. They have had good participation so far. This project is \$61,863 with the in-kind match from Seymour Johnson AFB of \$13,860. The grant request is for \$47,976. We talked about this one for a while. This is very good for Seymour Johnson AFB and for the servicemembers. This group is not a group that has professional grant writers like the City of Fayetteville or FSU. For this one the operators are the ones preparing the grant. The idea is very good, but the hurdle is that it looks like it could be for

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operational funding to keep the program going and expand. The GRC did think this was a worthy cause. It does it improve the quality of life for the airmen and their families.

The total of all three requests was for \$129,000 and the Commission has up to \$225,000 for the Community Grants. So, when he talked about going back to FSU about expanding their grant proposal, we clearly have the funding to do that within the grant funding. So, we can contact FSU and see if they can expand their proposal or leave it as it is. The other thing we can do is put out for additional grants. What are your thoughts? Chairman Martin asked what the GRC thought? Frank Bottorff said that they did not discuss that topic. They did want to go back out to FSU to see if they would consider expanding their proposal. The GRC did not talk about putting the grant application guidelines out again for other proposals to be submitted. David Hayden said that the grant request from FSU looks a lot like their proposal on the research that we were talking about before that he was going to prepare the Scope of Work on. Not all of it, but part of it relate to impact on how the military retired pay state taxation impacts their desire to stay here. This could be a quicker way to get to that result if the grant were approved than a Scope of Work or a Request for Proposal (RFP). There were only two organizations, Fayetteville State University (FSU) and East Carolina University (ECU) that were we looking at before. If we approve this grant and expand it the other installations, that might provide us with the other information needed and not go through the RFP process. Frank Bottorff said that was a good point. The GRC was keeping their focus on the grant request itself. He had some of the same thoughts but was not sure if this were a **narrow** of what they would be doing for the entire project and the deliverables could be different. Certainly, this would inform the other one. Sally-Ann Gupta asked what the timeline for the proposed survey for completion and deliverables? When would they be able to release that information? Frank Bottorff said that the timeline was for one year from the start of the survey. David Hayden said that he did not think that whether we used the grant or RFP, the timeline would be different. Sally-Ann Gupta said that the timeline for the results of the survey does not necessarily overlap with the next legislative session in order to use what we presume would be positive survey results and data points in support of getting that particular piece of legislation passed. Kirk Warner said that she was correct, but the working premise is that it does make a difference and is a factor. Sally-Ann Gupta said that we do need the survey results. Frank Bottorff said that he is not sure how many soldiers transition from Fort Bragg annually and divide that by twelve and start to figure out how many are leaving out every month, it probable takes a while if you are focused on exiting service members. Sally-Ann Gupta said that they want 5000 from Fort Bragg alone and now we are talking about statewide numbers. That will increase the number of survey results that will need to be tallied. That could now change their timeline. Kirk Warner said Fort Bragg is about 50,000 so they are using about 10% of the transition to retirement or just leaving. We have about 120,000 active duty so you are looking at about 12,000. Frank Bottorff said that if you look at Fort Bragg as the biggest and Camp Lejeune as the same, you are looking at about 15,000 worse case. He said that he did not know that the timeline would change much, because most of the data collection would be done simultaneously.

Chairman Martin asked what did the group thin? What do we need to set up for the Full Commission meeting? Frank Bottorff said that he wanted to go back to David Hayden on the FSU grant. He said that there was a valid question on this one. They put in a grant request and ECU did not. Should we put this one aside and do it via the MOU process? This would give both of them the opportunity since we have had ongoing discussions with them. He does not have an opinion on this but just asking the question.

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That will delay the process moving forward. Chairman Martin said that he was comfortable with using, what could be perceived as using, the grant process to circumvent what seems to be a statutory mandated procedure to go through. He has not looked to see if there are any significant legal distinctions. We have statutory authority to issue grants. What he does not know is how distinct that is from the rules that cover contracting. David Hayden said that the grant request from FSU is more than just impact of the removal of the State taxation. So, there are other reasons why you could do that. But that does not mean that the data that they would come up with would not be useful and also for this legislative initiative. Since this was an unsolicited application and there was no attempt to circumvent our procurement laws. Will this give us everything that we want from the RFP? This is another way to get information that will be useful to the State legislature. Whatever we do we need to run it by legal. We were considering an RFP, then we received this grant request from one of the universities which is looking at more than simply the impact, other things as well. This information will be beneficial to the NCMAC. This could be an alternative way to get some input to the legislature. He said this is going to be an imperfect solution, but the general rules are that timely information is far better than a perfect solution that is untimely.

Chairman Martin said that if the NCMAC is good with the grant application, we would withdraw the RFP for the study. Frank Bottorff said that he wanted to go back to the original thing. Should we put three grant applications in front of the NCMAC members and then the question becomes do we want each of them to brief the NCMAC on their projects? The GRC thought that was important but it is a time issue. He does not foresee any hurdles, but he thinks that having them do a five minute presentation and then take questions may be valuable. Kirk Warner asked about the expansion of the survey. Is that something logistically, that if FSU is not able to go to the other Installations, could ECU be part of the expansion portion and there be a partnership? Does that just bring in more bureaucracy? Frank Bottorff said that is a good thought but then this could get very complicated and quickly. David Hayden said that we just had this discussion about red flags. Maybe FSU cannot do the expansion but the information they would give us from Fort Bragg will be useful. Frank Bottorff said that he agreed and that is why he hesitated to make the call to FSU until we had this conversation. We just completed the grant process, and this is what they submitted. Us asking them to change it at this point to something much broader does change the nature of it a little bit. He was concerned on the legal side. He agrees with David Hayden 100% and he thinks this will inform other research or documents, but it is not the same. He thinks it is broader and there will be more lessons learned than the impact of taxes.

Chairman Martin said that he did like having the applicants on standby to answer questions from the NCMAC members, but he does not think we have enough time for them to make a presentation. Frank Bottorff said that he could do a quick recap of each application and then have them ready for questions if necessary. Frank Bottorff asked the group if they wanted him to call FSU about the expansion or leave it as it was written. Kirk Warner said that he thought he should call FSU to see if the expansion was a possibility. It would be good to have that information. Frank Bottorff said that he would make the phone call and then inform the group on the results of the phone call. We also need to send out the Community Grant summary and applications to the Commission members prior to the NCMAC meeting.

**CASSIDY AND ASSOCIATES: CHAD SYDNOR**

Chad Sydnor from Cassidy and Associates gave the members a lobbying update. He said that he would

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prepare an Election Results update at the Full Commission meeting. We are all aware of the Senate race in NC but there are three House races in NC. Those races are House #11 which is Mark Meadows old seat, and Madison Cawthron came out to a lot of fanfare but Colonel (Retired) Davis, the democrat is pulling a head. We will have to see more from that race. The two Incumbents, Dan Bishop, NC#9 and Richard Hudson, NC#8 are both in very close races. Richard Hudson is running against Patricia Timmons-Goodson. She had been on the Court of Appeals, NC Supreme Court and nominated during the Obama Administration to the bench. She has been pulling ahead in some of the polls. There are some tight House races out there. A lot of these tight House races that you are seeing around the Country have defense implications. In Georgia, David Purdue, is a Sub-Committee Chairman for Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) for sea power which makes sense with the Bombers at Kings Bay. Also, Joni Ernst from Iowa is also a Sub-Committee Chairman for Emerging Threats and Capabilities (ETC) and oversight over Special Operations Command (SOCOM). There is also Susan Collins from Maine. She is a long time defense appropriator. A lot of these Senate races have defense implications. We will continue to track these races.

The Coronavirus legislation will not happen until after the election. If the Democrats sweep and take the Senate, then you are looking at a big packages. If the Republicans hold, then it will be a slimmed down package. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will get done. The real reason that the NDAA has not gotten done is because Chairman Inhofe is up for re-election and he is focused on his re-election. The question with NDAA is that if there is a change at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, how does President Trump in a lame duck situation behave. Will he sign legislation? That is also critical for the Continuing Resolution (CR). There will almost definitely another CR, but the question is, who controls the Senate? If the Democrats take it, and Biden is in the White House, then they will do what the Republicans did in 2016. They will push it out until March or April. They will re-write the budget in their likeness. If Republicans hold, an Omnibus with the appropriations gets done before the end of the year. All of this has impacts on NC and there is plenty of stuff in NDAA for NC, especially for Cherry Point. There is a lot of money in these appropriations bills for all of the bases but especially some big projects that we have been wanting to get fixed for over a decade. Like the runway in Elizabeth City, and the fitness center and pool at Cherry Point.

Going through a couple of other items, in the Senate NDAA there is a section 2881, and he has sent out a couple of email about this. This mandates certain quality of life factors to be factored into basing decisions. Each one of the Services would put out a score card annually for the bases on how they do against these metrics. The Air Force already does this. The Jacksonville and Fayetteville Communities both have been basically agnostic about this. Paul Friday talked to Marine Corps Installations-East (MCI-East) and they basically said that they did not care. If this happens they will comply and if it does not happen we will continue to do business as usual. The Seymour Johnson Air Force Base folks in Goldsboro have been in favor of the provision. The folks at Cherry Point and Havelock have been opposed to it. We will see how this shakes out. There have been a lot of communities in Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma who have spoken out against this provision. They would like this to go through a better process and maybe have a hearing on it.

The Marine Corps force structure continues to move along. There is stuff in the NDAA for the aviation piece, but the law enforcement battalion has cased their colors. They are preparing to shut down. At

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the Department of Defense, Jim McCleskey and Chad Sydnor had a conversation with Heather Hopkins. Secretary Esper has created a new office called Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This has been turned off and turned on. Heather Hopkins is known to them; she was at BAE systems. She is supposed to be the belly button for communities and states to reach out to. He and Jim McCleskey had a good discussion with her. He is happy to introduce her to anyone from the Commission or community leader that would want a direct person to reach out to at the Department of Defense. He said that Tom Bolin from the NC National Guard has retired, and his replacement was Brian Pierce, former aviator. He will lead the Government Relations for the NC National Guard. We talked about the Adversary Air (ADAIR) contract earlier. That is the Adversary Air contract which is a huge Air Force contract that is, \$6.4 Billion. Draken International which flies cool stuff and will be doing ADAIR at the GTP. This is great news for Kinston and that community. He addressed re-programing last time. He thought that there would be money in there for NC and especially Fort Bragg. That appears to have come through with money to renovate the barracks. The last thing he wanted to add was to congratulate David Hayden on the Veterans Life Center. He has been tracking this project when he was in Senator Burr's office. This is good work for the State and our veterans.

**AGENDA FOR FULL NCMAC:**

Chairman Martin asked that Kelly Jackson read back everything that had been proposed for the November NCMAC agenda. Then see if there are any corrections to those items. Then when that is done she can put this in draft form and send to the members for approval. Kelly Jackson read the items to the group. Frank Bottorff said that he would make slides for the budget items that need to be approved. Frank Bottorff asked about having something for Senator Brown on this agenda. Do we plan to deliver a presentation, or will we be thanking him for his service? Chairman Martin said that there is a plan to do something for him, but the question is do we want to do it now or in person? What would be the most meaningful for him? Chairman Marin asked Sally-Ann Gupta what her thoughts are on this matter. Sally-Ann Gupta said we do not know when we will be meeting in person again. She thinks that what is most respectful is timely acknowledgement of service rather than waiting for something unknown at this time. Chairman Martin asked Sally-Ann Gupta to reach out to Senator Brown to see if he can call into the NCMAC meeting on November 17. Kirk Warner said that there are a couple of Bylaws issues that need to be addressed. One is the emergency actions and does that need to be part of the bylaws. The other item was reference ethics and being a covered board. Also, the conflict of interest issue. He will get the bylaws committee together to discuss these issues. Chairman Martin said that that sounded good because he did not want to discuss this at a full meeting without having discussed these issues prior to the meeting and that information sent to the members prior to the meeting. Kirk Warner said that he will target this for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 meeting.

Senator Brown	10 minutes
Introduce new member	
DMVA Update	Secretary Larry Hall (15)
Committee Updates	Committee Chairpersons (10 each/40)
Task Force Updates	Task Force Chairpersons (10 each/20))
NCCC Update	Michael Scalise (10)
Census update	Bob Coats (10)

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DC Update	Chad Sydnor/James McCleskey (15) (Partnership)	ESG
Election Results	Chad Sydnor/James McCleskey (15)	ESG
Partnership updates	Sentinel Landscape (15) EDPNC (10) NC4ME (10)	Budget
Community Grant update	Frank Bottorff (15)	Grant Review Team
Strategic Plan	Frank Bottorff (5)	ESG

**NEW BUSINESS: CHAIRMAN MARTIN**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Martin adjourned meeting 12:13 pm.