Minutes of the 4/21/14 Meeting of the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee

0905: Welcome, introductory remarks and brief agenda review were presented by Sonny Roberts, Committee Chair, who turned the floor over to Paul Friday for a briefing on MCI East.

0906: Mr. Roberts first took roll call of meeting attendees:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sebastian Montagne

Paul Friday

Ron Nash

Bryan Gossage

Sonny Roberts

Bob Dickerson

Tom Bolen

Frank Bottorff

Paul Dordal

Will Lewis

Bo Heath

William Crews

Darryl Black

Nat Robertson

Rebecca Rogers

Alex Grav

It was determined that a quorum was present.

The floor was turned over to Mr. Paul Friday for a briefing on MCI East.

Mr. Friday addressed the three of MCI East's top concerns, beginning with Hoffman Forest presently managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of North Carolina.

Hoffman Forest: Mr. Friday indicated that the sale of the property has been under contract for some months and is expected to close by June 3 barring any issues. Mr. Friday indicated that the buyer has worked extensively with the military in the Midwest and is eager to meet with the Marine Corps. and other service branches that are using Hoffman Forest. Mr. Friday anticipates contact with the buyer when the contract terms are complete. This property is significant to the military relative to low-lying flight routes and on-the-ground training. The military is not permitted to contact the seller until after the property sale is closed, so contact has not yet been formally initiated. Gen. Dickerson stressed that Hoffman Forest should be viewed in a broader sense than just North Carolina and the Marine Corps, but rather as a community coalition effort between North Carolina and all branches of service as it pertains to the joint use of Hoffman Forest.

Bear Gardens: Mr. Friday commented on North Carolina's strong desire to increase the off-base habitats of the red cockaded woodpecker and the longleaf pine, identifying these as high-priority items. The State is being encouraged to partner with Bear Gardens in order to utilize the area as an off-base habitat for RCW and for growing long leaf pine with the goal of increasing of their population. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the State are looking at a draft proposal. A successful partnership

would enable the Marine Corps to establish a practical tank range for training purposes as well as amphibious assault force training for designated points off of Camp Lejeune.

Fort Bragg: Mr. Friday spoke briefly about Fort Bragg from the perspective of the Commanders' Council. He indicated that Fort Bragg's challenges are similar to those of the other bases, including limited training space because of the RCW, and enhancement of training grounds.

Wind Energy/Tall Structures: Mr. Friday next addressed wind energy and tall structures. HB 433, the Bill that treats the 5-mile radius around installations, passed in the last legislative session. He stated that getting detailed maps is of primary concern to stakeholders. Darryl Black stated that within the Department of Insurance, the Building Code Council is responsible for oversight of the permitting process. In a Land Use meeting, the stakeholders expressed concern that the Building Code Council only meets once per quarter, which could cause delays to projects. Mr. Black stated that while the Bill allows stakeholders to proceed with the permitting process outside of the quarterly meetings, it does not have enforcement measures or outline penalties for those not in compliance. This may be able to be corrected in the upcoming short session of the General Assembly. Aviation safety is a primary concern within the Bill, but challenges of encroachment relative to future BRAC must be considered. A comprehensively developed map is needed that shows color-coded zones that identify no-development zones, no height restriction/encroachment zones, and a zone with only some restrictions. Another concern is that a large portion of eastern North Carolina contains flight zones, and unjustified restrictions might invite opposition and legal action. HB 484 is working as intended. Both Bills need the opportunity to be thoroughly vetted to determine what changes may need to be made in the next long session of the Legislature. Mr. Black added that the issues extend beyond height of tall structures to include electromagnetic interference as it affects radar.

<u>Maps:</u> Mr. Friday added that a repository of updated maps that reflect the 5-mile radii around installations is needed. Mr. Black offered his office as a potential repository for where maps should reside.

Mike Lazzara of the City of Jacksonville noted that once the maps are put together there should be a "sign-off" by each of the branches of services so that once the overlay is adopted, the maps are able to be utilized by all of the services. Mr. Black stated that a pressing concern is getting the communities on board, but that Mr. Paul Friday could oversee the project from the perspective of the Commanders' Council. Mr. Friday stated that the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee should be actively engaged in the project.

Paul Dordal made a motion for the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee to be involved with the process of establishing the map identifying encroachment areas, low-level routes, etc. Chairman Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Friday briefly addressed the topic of NC Conservation Trust Funds and how they inure to the benefit of the military.

Mr. Dordal briefly addressed the National Defense Authorization Act (mentioning the "Monterey model"), which gives military installations new authority to enter into agreements with state and local governments to mutually share services and facilities.

Roads: Mr. Dordal requested that Sebastian Montagne of NC DOT update the Committee on DOT activities. Mr. Montagne briefly addressed the usage of collected gas sales tax by installations relative to road repair, what constitutes federal vs. state land as it relates to local, regional or state roads, the movement of Fort Bragg boundaries. Mr. Montagne discussed long-term sustainability and the impact of poor road and intersection conditions at bases such as Cherry Point and Fort Bragg. 42 of 57 intersections on Fort Bragg are currently assessed as failed or failing "in accordance with DOT."

Gen. Dickerson interposed questions on maintenance on highway 172 through the use of sales tax.

Ron Massey discussed looking at various approaches to allocation of funds for road repair. Col. Bottorff stated that he put out an RFI on the gas tax issue: Lejeune and Cherry Point have responded with points of contact for further information. Other installation responses have been lacking, and he will follow up with an additional e-mail. Mr. Friday indicated he is awaiting a priority list from Fort Bragg.

Mr. Dordal addressed Fort Bragg telephone surcharges; the call centers are funded by the State. Fees collected go to the State and to the City of Fayetteville as opposed to Fort Bragg. Up until the annexation of Fort Bragg by Fayetteville, Fort Bragg would fund the call centers. Consolidation of the 911 centers was mentioned as a means to get the funding to the lead agency. Half of the 911 Board is comprised of call center carriers. House Bill 1755, which was passed as Session Law 2007-383, requires all voice communications service providers to collect a single rate 911 service fee and remit collections to the State 911 Board rather than to the local governments. The State 911 Board distributes funds to the PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) based upon criteria set forth in that law.

<u>Annual Firefighter Certification</u> – General Dickerson stated that this is a work in progress. Col. Bottorff commented that the police certification and firefighter certification requirements differ, with the firefighter certification having a more significant effect on base communities. He stated that when the recertification cost exceeds the budget and firefighters do not recertify, services cannot be provided off-base. Col. Bottorff cited an estimated cost of \$37K annually to certify Cherry Point's firefighters.

No representative for Elizabeth City Coast Guard Station was present to comment at this juncture.

The floor was opened for general comment on other issues that need to be addressed.

It was announced that a host city coalition has been created with the next scheduled meeting taking place on the first of May. The Coalition includes the Havelock mayor, Jacksonville mayor, Fayetteville mayor, Goldsboro mayor, and mayors of other host cities, and will meet regularly to discuss issues unique to host communities.

Mr. Roberts opened the floor to old and new business.

Mr. Dordal advised that responses to the RFP are incoming and are being considered; a report is expected to issue at the next Executive Steering Group Committee meeting on May 6, 2014. He mentioned that Fort Bragg is not being given proper credit for training that takes place off base. This affects scoring relative to BRAC and the Requests for Proposal.

Updated SWOT analysis data is needed.

Mr. Dordal gave an overview of the role of the ADC (Association of Defense Communities) and the conference that took place in San Antonio, TX. He encouraged all military communities to attend the next conference in June.

All military communities were encouraged to attend the Food & Fuel 4 the Forces event hosted by the North Carolina Eastern Region and the North Carolina Military Business Center in New Bern, North Carolina on June 10, 2014.

1400: Following a request for additional comments, Chairman Roberts adjourned the meeting.