

Meeting Minutes
NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION
BASE SUSTAINABILITY & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Goldsboro City Hall Addition
200 N Center Street
Goldsboro, North Carolina
October 24, 2013

Members Present: Sonny Roberts, MajGen Robert "Bob" Dickerson (Ret), Col Walter J. "Joe" Marm, Jr. (Ret), Col Frank Bottorff (Ret), MajGen Cornell Wilson, Jr. (Ret), Goldsboro Mayor Al King, and Havelock Mayor Jimmy Sanders

Ex Officio Members Present: MG Greg Lusk (attended on behalf of Secretary Frank Perry), Assistant Secretary Brad Ives (attended on behalf of Secretary John Skvarla), and Ron Massey (attended on behalf of Mayor Sammy Phillips).

Others Present: LtGen Gary McKissock, Chuck Allen, Col Jeannie Leavitt, Sheila Pierce, Paul Friday, Marc Finlayson, Jim Freeman, Stewart Cox, Greg Lewis, BrigGen Paul Dordal (Ret), Jeremiah Daniels, Ben Seegars, Jimmie Edmundson, Steve Keen, Col Jon Chase, Darryl Black and BG Mabry "Bud" Martin (Ret)

Call to Order

Mr. Sonny Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Al King also welcomed everyone to Goldsboro and stated Goldsboro is very special for many reasons which include Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Appoint Officers

MajGen Bob Dickerson recommended Sonny Roberts to serve as Chair. Col Frank Bottorff seconded the recommendation. The Committee unanimously voted for Sonny Roberts to serve as Chair of the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee. Col Frank Bottorff recommended MajGen Bob Dickerson serve as Vice- Chair. Col Joe Marm seconded the recommendation. The Committee unanimously voted for MajGen Dickerson to serve as Vice-Chair.

MajGen Dickerson stated the committee will need a replacement for MajGen Cornell Wilson. MajGen Cornell Wilson stated they are working on a replacement.

BRAC Impact on Sustainability

BrigGen Paul Dordal stated he was glad to see everyone here, it indicates the interest there is in protecting our military installations in North Carolina, which is a huge effort. He

stated he thinks that what Col. Leavitt said about the effort with the wind turbines on the initial approach into Date County Range and the efforts the State put into that is an indication of what this committee can work on and how effective it could be in the future on things like that.

BrigGen Dordal stated there have been five (5) rounds of Base Realignment & Closures (BRAC) since 1988, the last two (2) rounds of BRAC, the major criteria of whether or not they closed or recommended for closure an installation was whether or not military value had been degraded at all since the last time evaluated between the last BRAC and the time they were making these considerations. He stated if there was some derogation of military mission that had a tremendous impact on their decision making as to who they would close and how they would realign. That's what we are facing now. In 2005, the BRAC Commission recommendation that the next BRAC take place in 2015. BrigGen Dordal stated they set a timeline in their report that starts with the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and goes on to submitting the budget and starting BRAC processes. He stated right now according to the timeline we are on track for a 2015 BRAC. The problem is Congress does not want to put up with another BRAC right now. He stated they did defund the Department of Defense's (DoD) request that would have funded initial preparations for the BRAC processes. He stated it looks like it will be delayed to 2017 before the next BRAC. The issue is there is tremendous pressure on DOD to get rid of excess infrastructure. Depending on the service, it is somewhere between 15% and 30% that they need to get rid of. Meanwhile, there are airplanes in moth balls in installations, we have infrastructure that is not being used and services are not being allowed to shutdown installations. BrigGen Dordal stated there will either be a formal BRAC in the 2015 - 2017 timeframe or an informal BRAC that has already started. The informal BRAC is something we need to start preparing for now because it involves things like the Budget Control Act of 2011. There were tremendous cuts across the military and when you add sequestration into that it makes it even more difficult for the military to operate. BrigGen Dordal stated they have to get rid of the excess infrastructure and reduce costs. He stated the 2005 BRAC was mostly about realignment and very few closures were involved so the cost savings was not where near what was projected. BrigGen Dordal stated the rumblings that we hear at DOD right now is this will be a closure BRAC. They will close installations that are not required, realign units and forces in those installations that stay open and DOD is going to save money out of that. He stated it has already started; the Army has to reduce 80,000 people out of their force level by 2017. That means they are already shutting down brigade combat teams at Fort Bragg and other places, realigning forces and stuff like that. BrigGen Dordal stated out of the \$26 billion dollar impact installations have on North Carolina, most of that, about \$19 billion comes from personnel wages coming into the state. He stated if we lose forces it is almost as bad as shutting down an installation. It could especially affect our large installations such as Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. He stated what that means for the Sustainability Committee, the agenda says "BRAC Impact on Sustainability, which is just the opposite, the sustainability issue and what affect it has on BRAC. He stated with the number one criteria being military value being degraded due to incompatible development, encroachment any types of those things that may have impacted military missions then that will have an impact on the decisions of the next BRAC or decision of the service. BrigGen Dordal stated services have already started their process of ranking and scoring

installations. It is done through other types of programs like an informal BRAC or self BRAC and things like Installation Complex Encroachment Management Action Plans (ICEMAPS) like Seymour Johnson went through this summer. Each service has different programs they are working with right now. He stated a good example of incompatible development is Oceana Air Station in Virginia. They were designated to close in 2005 but they had enough horsepower and they were able to maintain it and they did not have an alternative naval base they could operate out of. Oceana never put a stop to the development around the installation and all that came out in a BRAC report in 2005. He stated we do not want that same thing to happen here. Fort Bragg had to close down its _____ drop zone because of dense population and development at Fort Bragg. When we look at sustainability the number one goal is to protect our military installations and that's what the Sustainability Committee needs to focus on.

BrigGen Dordal stated what we can do now is access military value, we can do that wither by hiring a professional defense consultant or we can do that in the community; what has happened to the military value of our military installations since 2005. He suggested getting a message together and taking it up to leadership of services. He stated if we wait until the BRAC Commission is formed, services will have brought their recommendations for closures to the Commission, which happens early on, it is too late. He stated we need to influence the service leadership before then and tell them what we have done to protect our military installations over the last 7 or 8 years. BrigGen Dordal stated that it is a big task. He challenged the Committee to look at what it really means to protect our military installations.

MajGen Dickerson asked if there was any efforts going on to work with other states to see what they did and BrigGen Dordal replied yes, we are gathering best practices from other states to see how we might do some of those things in North Carolina. Mr. Roberts asked if there was any talk between the other states and BrigGen Dordal replied there is always a lot of talk and there is a nationwide organization with members from every defense community and they get together to talk about BRAC and BRAC alternatives. They also get together to talk about what their states are doing

Col Joe Marm asked if the small size of Seymour Johnson would hurt us. BrigGen Dordal stated he did not think the size would. BrigGen Dordal shared what really hurt Pope Air Force Base when it became an army airfield; the runway was so short it could not accept additional missions coming in. BrigGen Dordal stated Seymour does not have that same issue, it is considered a medium sized wing and it is the only base in the country that trains F-15E pilots and still have an operational mission.

Mr. Jeremiah Daniels asked how our state stands in comparison to other states in our preparation for BRAC. BrigGen Dordal stated it varied depending on the state; some of the legislators have put \$2 to 3 million into preparing for BRAC already. BrigGen Dordal stated he was glad to see our General Assembly put in a million dollars for BRAC preparation in this last session. BrigGen Dordal stated we are not last and we are not first, we are probably in the top 25% right now.

Fort Bragg Compatible Use Buffer Initiatives

Col Jon Chase stated he was asked to give everyone some information on what they do at Fort Bragg in an effort to create operational sustainability in the sand hills. He stated he would like to provide a brief history of how they got to where they are in terms of the Army's Compatible Use Buffer Program and talk about goals and strategies and talk a little about their successes.

Col Chase stated this all started back in 1990 as they were getting ready at Fort Bragg to go to Desert Storm. He provided a brief history of the Red-cockaded woodpecker and the jeopardy opinion of the US Fish and Wildlife Commission. He stated this started the process of where they are today, in essence helping the community and Fort Bragg show how they can work together in order to create training lands that are compatible with other uses as well as keeping the Army's largest footprint there in NC trained and ready to go. By 1995 they had gone through a series of discussions with the local communities and the Army established agreements with Nature Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife to protect and conserve the land and preclude encroachment into an area about one mile that buffers Fort Bragg and to protect the species inside the boundaries of Fort Bragg and the Compatible Use Buffer Program was born. He stated they are trying to preserve training lands for the soldiers that train on Fort Bragg and to have compatible air space in and around Fort Bragg so that we can continue to train.

Col Chase stated what they have been doing for the past 10 to 15 years is strategizing, prioritizing and identifying those critical areas in and around Fort Bragg and the community. In identifying those lands, may acquire land and do compatible use studies and maintain those lands so they can keep training and do not have to go elsewhere to train. The conservation and management is an important part of everything they do on Fort Bragg and the surrounding communities.

Col Chase provided the following statistic on the importance of Fort Bragg to the local community and the Army:

- Fort Bragg contains the largest concentration of Army Forces in the continental US.
- Conduct all of the training for Special Forces when initially coming into that service.
- Fort Bragg has the largest and most important readiness mission in the Army.
- Fort Bragg is a regional training center.
- Fastest growing counties in North Carolina around Fort Bragg.

Col Chase reviewed the training footprint. As part of the Compatible Use Buffer Program, they have designated areas in and around Fort Bragg that they try to work compatible use arrangements with the local community to either expand our training land or get compatible use agreements to stop encroachments that will have an impact on the way they train at Fort Bragg.

Col Chase shared they have designated areas of safe harbor for the red-cockaded woodpecker and created areas where they can thrive. He stated they have also designated areas in order to acquire more land. Fort Bragg is 100,000 acres short of how much training land they need based on requirements provided by the units that serve at Fort Bragg.

Col Chase stated one of their biggest successes to date of the Compatible Use Buffer program has been working with Cumberland County and North Carolina to create Carver's Creek State Park, the first State Park in Cumberland County.

Col Chase stated to summarize, the Army is engaged with local and state entities to protect land for Fort Bragg to train on.

Mr. Roberts stated he hoped this is opening everyone eyes to the importance of our Bases being able to perform their mission statements.

MCIEST Presentation Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, New River

Mr. Paul Friday stated services do not train the same; they operate differently so what you will see is there is no cookie cutter approach. One thing as a commission you will struggle with is there is no cookie cutter solution to some of these issues. Army is primarily foot soldiering, and Marine Corp has three primary mission oriented drivers: air, land and water. He stated Marine Corp is predominately located along the coast. This migration of 80% of the US population living within 70 miles of the coastline is right on target.

Mr. Friday stated we also have a little different approach than the Army with buffering in that they have an aggressive program. He stated on a good year they received \$50 million nationally which is about \$3 million per installation which is not enough to protect the way we train. Mr. Friday stated secondly the economies within these communities, the more land you take out of the tax base, and the more push back one will get over time. Must be judicious of what we tie up and solutions have to be achieved that are not necessarily taking land out of the tax base and are not necessarily protecting them perpetually.

Mr. Friday touched on the following topics that affect the Marine Corp:

- Hoffman Forest – 80,000 acre land that is being sold soon and a private landowner will soon own.
- Air Space Training
- Sentinel Landscapes
- State Partnerships
- Departing Military
- Defense Authorization Act
- Wind

Mr. Friday also shared information regarding classifying waters and ecosystems.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

Col. Jeanie Leavitt thanked the commission for inviting her today. She stated she could not agree with Mr. Friday more, every installation is different. If you look at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on a map you would zoom in just south of Goldsboro but if you were to look at our training air space, you would need to zoom way out from North Virginia to Georgia, Tennessee and a couple hundred miles off the coast. She stated they have a huge amount of firepower with 94 strike eagles divided into 4 different fighter squadrons. Two are operational. They have a third of all operational squadrons of Strike Eagles in the Air Force. The other two are what they call their formal training units. They have 100% of Strike Eagle training squadrons in the United States. If you take a look at just fighter wings, they are the largest in the Air Force.

Col. Leavitt stated they are Total Force Integrations (TFI) meaning they are active duty with reservists units integrated into the wing. They also have the 916th Refueling Air Wing. Col. Leavitt stated in terms of infrastructure, they have one runway; a long runway with cable. Recently, they completed a significant runway construction project replacing more than 50% of the runway.

Col. Leavitt stated they fly low and fly fast; about 9 miles a minute so we do worry about encroachment. Dare County Bombing Range is a little treasure they have on the east coast. There are not a lot of training ranges on the east coast. Dare County Bombing Range is near and dear to their hearts. Some of you may be familiar with a recent encroachment issue we had. Col. Leavitt stated she wanted to start by saying the Air Force absolutely supports renewable energy. She stated the caveat is they would like to have some ability to coordinate locations of wind turbines. Col. Leavitt provided details on a recent project of wind turbines which could have affected their training abilities in Dare County. Col. Leavitt shared information regarding HB-484 (House Bill) and the support the base received from the local community and the state to prevent the encroachment.

Col. Leavitt also shared information regarding a training exercise that includes other military bases along the east coast.

BrigGen Dordal asked if there was any talk about Seymour Johnson getting a second runway. Col. Leavitt stated there have not been any formal discussions.

Mayor King stated Col. Leavitt is the first female fighter pilot, the first female wing commander and she is a very special lady.

Wayne County Chamber MAC

Mr. Jimmie Edmundson stated he is Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee (MAC) Executive Committee. He stated our MAC has been advocating for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for more than 40 years. They do that with regular visits to their delegation, state and local officials, and the primary issues they have worked on in the past have been

encroachment not only at Seymour but Dare Range as well. They also work on support for major Military Construction (MILCON) projects. He stated they have also been strong advocates of Seymour during previous BRACs and feel they have been very successful. During the last 2005 BRAC, Seymour was number one for the unmanned vehicles and picked up the engine shop from Langley and a Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer "Red Horse" unit. They did gain missions out of the last BRAC.

Mr. Edmundson stated their most recent effort was the encroachment we were facing with the wind farm project in Beaufort County that would have affected training abilities at Dare County range. He stated he would like to thank Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources Brad Ives because he was a huge help along with Daryl Black and Senator Harry Brown. He stated our community spent \$140,000 to get that legislation passed. He also thanked Jim Carr, the lead attorney on the effort.

Mr. Edmundson stated with the threat of more defense budget cuts; we have a lot of work going forward. He stated this will not be a sprint, it will be a marathon and is not something you can start a year before BRAC and stop the year after, it will need to be a continuous effort and need continued funding. In 2005, the Air Force determined it had 24% excess installation capacity. In the last round of BRAC, they did not close any major bases. Eight years later the Air Force has 500 fewer aircraft and its inventory has yielded even a greater amount of excess and he stated it is a given that force adjustments will be made not only in the Air Force but in other branches of service as well. Sequestration has been devastating and will continue to be until a budget is passed that we can rely on. While Congress has not authorized a BRAC, everyone realizes cuts are going to take place. While we do not cherish a BRAC, we would rather see a BRAC versus a stealth BRAC. He stated they also think the next round of BRAC will focus on efficiency and cost savings. Staying off the list is much easier than getting off the list.

Mr. Edmundson stated in our community we are participating in a P-4 project; a Private-Private, Public-Private partnership. He stated they are looking at ways to be more efficient. He stated Seymour Johnson is extremely important to the community and the state economy. He stated they are ready to step forward and work on these challenges. He stated they believe since the state does benefit from the military bases here, it is only fair that the state provide some financial assistance to our community to protect and expand missions at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Sonny Roberts commended those involved with the effort on the wind turbines.

MajGen Wilson asked if the Wayne County MAC received any state funding during the last BRAC. Mr. Edmundson replied he believed it was all local monies. MajGen Wilson asked if they received any state funding on the wind turbine effort and Mr. Edmundson replied it was all local funding.

NC National Guard

MajGen Greg Lusk shared the following information:

NCNG – Where we are now...

- Currently have 93 Armories or Readiness Centers across NC.
- 83% of the 93 Readiness Centers are in poor or failing condition. Poor is 50% or more of operating systems in facilities are in disrepair. Failing is all operating systems in facility are in disrepair. (AC/Boilers, etc.)
- They have an average age of over 42 years and are aligned with 1950's demographics and transportation systems.
- The majority of the Readiness Centers has outlived their design life and is no longer sustainable; they no longer meet the training needs of the soldiers who serve in them or the operational needs of the communities they serve.
- The modern interstate system that currently networks our state today was created in large part due to the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. Therefore, when most of these RC's were planned, they were designed to house smaller units spread across the state in rural communities. The population growth that has resulted from interstate highway system is a clear population shift that follows the I-77, I-40, I-85 and I-95 Corridors across our state. A large majority of our current and future citizen soldiers make their home in this corridor.
- 80% of the younger population (5-24 year olds) lives in the corridor previously mentioned.

NCNG: Defining the Problem

- Our current Readiness Centers cost too much to operate (inefficient and outdated)
- Current demographics do not support Readiness Center locations (increases response time)
- Current Readiness Centers do not support recruiting demographics
- With current facilities, NCNG is at risk of losing current personnel and equipment and not postured for potential opportunities
- Current facility locations and conditions are inadequate for shared use with potential partner agencies

NCNG: Where we want to be...

- The Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan was completed Aug 13 (245th CES S-Team)
- The Master Plan transitions the Readiness Center foot print from 93 unsustainable facilities to 47 sustainable, modern facilities which includes 8 new Regional Readiness Centers
- The plan is based on 21st Century demographics rather than 1950's
- Key criteria of the new Regional Readiness Centers will be:
 1. Operational Space for a minimum of 600 soldiers and equipment storage and administrative space for 1,200 soldiers regardless of specialties.

2. 50 to 100 buildable acres. Sites should have an additional 20 undeveloped acres for state emergencies. (Staging Areas, Receiving Areas, and other temporary facilities)
3. Have at least a Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design "LEED" Silver certification.
4. Facilities sited and designed for "mirror image" expansion without procurement of additional land or major modification to base facilities.
5. For Master Planning purposes, approximately 150,000 square feet.
6. Home station training capabilities and simulator/engagement skills training space.
7. Recruitment facilities, one stop shop family readiness and support facilities including ID cards, family care plans, financial management assistance, legal assistance, social services, crisis information and referral, family readiness training and employment opportunities.
8. Readily expandable temporary lodging for 300 soldiers/airmen.

The way ahead...

- 10-year time line as outlined in NCNG Master Plan
- State awarded NCNG \$8.2M for 25 Capital Improvement projects at 17 Readiness Center Sites (\$21M Federal Match)
- Increase in Operations and Maintenance
- Preliminary Engineering Report for the Regional Readiness Centers will be contracted this year
- Continued exploration of Public-Public; Public-Private partnerships and leasing to avoid time consuming MILCON process and limited funding

MajGen Lusk shared the Chief Financial Managing Officer (CFMO) is working with National Guard Bureau, contactor Jones, Lang, LaSalle and our own Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) to explore non-traditional methods of ensuring they can meet the ten (10) year timeline as outlined in the Master Plan. This includes but is not limited to Public - Private partnerships, leases of existing vacated buildings and recommended changes to existing public law that will make it easier for the NCNG to achieve our goal of achieving a 21st century sustainable and reliable infrastructure footprint for our Readiness Centers.

MajGen Lusk stated the legislative achievement this year is \$8.2M for Capital Improvements will go a long ways towards helping support the objectives of the Master Plan. The 17 Readiness Center projects are nested with the overall master plan. We are either working on Readiness Centers we know will be a part of the future foot print or ensuring we can bridge armories to such a time as when we can bring them offline.

Our increased funding and flexibility is making us more competitive for federal matching funds and able to complete work towards the future, not just placing band aids on our aging Readiness Centers.

MajGen Lusk stated they want to partner with agencies like EM, NC State Highway Patrol and others to identify where we can partner together on new facilities. He stated they also want to work with local elected leaders to identify the remaining Regional Readiness Center sites so they can continue to move forward.

The Committee broke for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and returned at 1:00 p.m.

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT).

Mr. Marc Finlayson presented the following information:

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCAS)

MCAS Cherry Point is celebrating its 71st year anniversary. MCAS Cherry Point has over three miles of continuous runway, extending 8,000 feet in each direction. The air station was designated as an emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point – Assets

Cherry Point is the largest MCAS with over 13,000 acres inside the fence and another 17,000 acres in close proximity for training.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point – Threats

Legacy aircraft like the AV-8B Harriers based at Cherry Point are phasing out of service. Replacement F-35B aircraft are about a decade from deployment.

Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East – Assets

Comprises 147 acres and includes two million square feet of building space, with an estimated replacement value of \$1.2 Billion. An additional 105 acres are available for growth.

FRC-East is the "Vertical Lift Center of Excellence" and inducted its first F-35B in August.

Fleet Readiness Center East – Threats

FRC East is the only major North Carolina installation to have ever been placed on a BRAC closure list.

Mr. Finlayson stated in the July 18, 2012 Kiplinger Letter, Cherry Point was identified to be eyed for closure.

State and Regional Economic Impact

MCAS Cherry Point (including FRC East)

- Worth \$2.2 billion to North Carolina's economy annually.
- Employs over 14,000 workers in North Carolina.

- Over \$450 Million in annual salaries in NC.
- Over 57,000 personnel, families, and retirees are linked to Cherry Point across eastern North Carolina.
 - o Represents 35% of Craven County's population
 - o Represents 16% of Carteret County's population

Fleet Readiness Center East (separate from MCAS)

- Over 3,200 civilians work at FRC East, making it North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of I-95
- Annual payroll in excess of \$276 million
- Average annual wage of \$64,000
- Projected 2013 receipts from military and private customers in excess of \$700 million
- Projected 2013 direct labor hours of \$3.2 million
- 550 engineers employed
- Must hire 300 highly skilled employees per year.

Challenges: Sequestration

- Marine Corps will reduce its force from 202,000 to 174,000 by 2017.
- Annual DoD budget cuts beginning in 2014 are expected to exceed \$50 billion.
- Thousands of civilian employees furloughed for six days without pay during the summer.
- Furloughs made FRC East less competitive, driving up the cost of doing business against the private sector.

Challenges: BRAC

- Anticipating a 2017 BRAC but it could happen in 2015.
 - o Service decisions on "reductions in force" are being made today and will impact an installation's susceptibility during BRAC.
- According to The Kiplinger Letter MCAS Cherry Point is likely to be closed during the next BRAC, sitting a goal to have no more than four air stations on the east coast.
- Constant encroachment threat on training ranges. If the Marines can't train here, they will move.
- EA-6B decommissioning plan was accelerated from 2019 to 2017.
 - o EA-6B Prowlers being decommissioned faster than the F-35B will replace them, meaning a utilization gap.

Challenges: F-35B Deployment

How many aircraft will actually come to the Marine Corps? Initially 128 planes were slated, now estimated to be in 90's. If program is delayed, Cherry Point will be the most impacted because it is the last air station for deployment.

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow – Past

- Organized in 1993 as "Allies in Defense of Cherry Point."

- Understood the urgency of advocacy because FRC East (then NADEP) was identified for closure in 1993 BRAC.
- Helped persuade BRAC Commission to keep Cherry Point open and viable. Took over 2,000 citizens to the BRAC hearing in Norfolk in 23 buses.
- Has been successful in educating policy makers to the value of MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East to national defense and North Carolina's economy.
- ACT received state funding during the 2005 BRAC and was a good steward.

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow – Present

- Partnered with Cherry Point on 2002 Joint Land Use planning (JLUS) and is currently updating.
- Successfully pushed local ordinances to limit impact of wind turbines and other tall structures.
- Works with local governments and the NC Coastal Land Trust to limit encroachment on the air station itself and on its training ranges.
- Encourages local and regional cooperation on shared services.
- Supports quality of life initiatives for Marines and their families.
- Works with the North Carolina General Assembly and state agencies on military related policy matters.

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow – Future

- ACT's leaders are committed to a permanent organization for advocacy.
- 2012 state funding made possible ACT's strategic plan and initial implementation.
- Adopted a Strategic Plan in January 2013 and began implementation.
- Completed a successful local government funding campaign.
- Adopted an annual operating budget effective July 2013.

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow – Vision

- ACT's Board of Directors truly represents the entire Cherry Point region of Craven, Carteret, Jones and Pamlico Counties and their municipalities. They concentrate on the following areas:
 - Marketing and public relations
 - Regional planning
 - Government affairs
 - Financial management

Mr. Finlayson stated they have a plan and an organizational budget. They are already advocating for MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East on our own volition and under our own direction, but ACT needs the state's support to help fund their program of work on behalf of Cherry Point to reach its full advocacy potential and remain an ongoing, sustainable organization. He stated they will use the resources wisely and well.

Subjects Targeted for Legislative Action

MajGen Bob Dickerson summarized topics and issues discussed during the meetings which included the following items:

- Compatible Land Use Initiatives
- Buffer Zones
- Air Space Management
- Hoffman Forest
- Additional Land Needed for Training
- Retaining Departing Service Members
- Maintain Focus on State Projects
- Dare County Range

Final Comments

Mr. Sonny Roberts stated this is a golden opportunity and the General Assembly is waiting to hear from us. It is up to us to take the ball and run with it. The military is a big, big part of our state and has a huge economic impact. The military is also a part of our communities. Mr. Roberts stated there is a lot of work ahead of us and would like to schedule another committee meeting.

Mayor Jimmy Sanders stated Havelock would like to host the next meeting at the Tourist Center.

A future meeting date will be scheduled.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

