

NCMAC Executive Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2014

Location: Teleconference / Web conference

Required Attendees:

Brigadier General Mabry "Bud" Martin, ARNGUS Retired – Committee Chair

Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired - Vice Chair & BRAC Committee Chair

Senator Harry Brown - Legislative Affairs Committee Chair

Lieutenant General Gary McKissock, USMC Retired - Economic Development Committee Chair

Major General Cornell Wilson Jr, USMC Retired – Military Affairs Advisor

Optional Attendees:

Joy Thrash - Community Coordinator for Fort Bragg

Major General Robert Dickerson, USMC Retired - Community Coordinator for Camp Lejeune

Colonel Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired - Community Coordinator for MCAS Cherry Point

Members Not Present:

Sonny Roberts - Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Committee Chair (**Called prior and designated General Dickerson to be his Rep**)

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anderson, USA Retired – Quality of Life Committee Chair

Others Present:

Darryl Black, Legislative Advisor to Senator Brown

Major Bobby Lumsden, Executive Officer to the Military Affairs Advisor

Kelly Barretto, Executive Assistant to the Military Affairs Advisor

Meeting was called to order at 1000

Brigadier General Mabry "Bud" Martin, ARNGUS Retired, Commission Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Announcements (Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC Retired)

- Introduced Kelly Barretto as his new administrative assistant and additional point of contact.
- Apprised attendees of the need to provide our office with 48-hour advance notice of Committee meetings or teleconferences consisting of three or more people in order to make arrangements for the same and post the information on the Secretary of State and MAC websites for public viewing in accordance with open meeting policy
- Major Bobby Lumsden added that he is working on funding from Dept. of Commerce to Dept. of Administration, and will meet with fiscal management to ensure transfer takes place on travel reimbursements, although possible delays
- Discussed availability of web conferencing through Defense Connect Online
- General Wilson announced that the next Full Commission Meeting is February 18, 2014, at Camp Lejeune. The following Full Commission meeting takes place on May 20, 2014, either at Department of Transportation conference room or the NCNG Joint Forces Headquarters building
- The Bankers' Association is proposing a military appreciation event on the same date (5/20/14) to honor the Commanders from bases, statewide, to take place between the Full Military Affairs Commission meeting and Commissioner's Council meeting. The Governor and civilians are invited. Good opportunity for State and House legislators. This may extend the meeting until possibly 6 p.m.

- Budget and the UNC in-state tuition information is posted on the MAC website. Kimberly could not attend, however, will be at the Full Commission meeting in February to discuss in-state tuition and loss of funding for research of PTSD.
- U.S. House is voting on in-state tuition for military bill this week. Pending in Senate.
- General Wilson provide a budget update which confirmed that \$2,300 of budget has been spent as of January 31, 2014

Committee Updates

No update from provided for the Quality of Life Committee (Robert Anderson not in attendance)

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs (General Bob Dickerson for Sonny Roberts)

Colonel Frank Bottorff addressed priority issues for MCAS Cherry Point:

- The priorities include airspace/range training and encroachment issues.
- The State of NC could assist with airspace to the FAA offering ceiling altitude changes to the existing area that they use.
- Looking at interservice/interagency redesign for eastern NC.
- Education, public school issues are a priority.
- Desire for State to continue managing Clearwater Trust Fund.
- FRC East sustainability of depot, require capital investment for future work.

Joy Thrash to addressed priority issues for Fort Bragg:

- First, to gain access to \$8m in gas sales tax funds to support the Odell Road extension into Fort Bragg.
- Second, to distribute to Ft. Bragg telephone surcharge to support Fort Bragg 911 Centers in reciprocity for assistance to Fayetteville and surrounding areas with 911 responses as needed.
- Third, waiving an annual certification for firefighters through Legislature in May. Sen. Wesley Meredith was at last week's meeting and was aware of these concerns.
- Training lands' ability to continue missions.
- 42 out of 57 intersections are assessed per USDOT as failed or failing creating concern that Ft Bragg will be perceived as having reached their maximum capacity if infrastructure is not improved, which could have negative impact if there were a BRAC consolidation round.
- Also mentioned was overcoming licensing conflicts for childcare, but not among top three priorities.

Gen. Dickerson spoke about Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River:

- Hoffmann Forest, LLC formerly owned by the State has been purchased by Jerry Walker of IL, and there is concern about what will happen with development of this property. They are working with Sec. Troxler to mitigate issues. \$40m for perpetual easement protection over time and looking to DoD to offset cost. Recommend a letter or phone call from Governor or from the Commandant of Marine Corps to partner with Jerry Walker so that this range does not become commercialized. Walker has 180 days to state his intent and for outside comment. Walker appears open to conversation with the State and the Marine Corps.
- Wind Energy/ Wind generator: the company that was to put in wind generators that are contiguous to ranges has pulled out, however issues still require working through. Looking at H.B. 484 and S.B. 3 to strengthen legislation in NC to help mitigate issues for incoming

companies trying to implement this technology. If the Governor has opportunity to work with Senators Burr and Hagan, and Congressman Jones to enforce or create federal law, which currently precludes DoD from getting engaged in this, it would be beneficial.

- MCI East: Bear Gardens is working with National Fish & Wildlife to come up with Long Leaf Pine Habitat relocation of Redcockaded Woodpeckers, allowing internal ranges at Lejeune and Bragg to use the ranges that are closed because of their habitation; this is being worked with DENR and Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation, but support is needed by Sec'y Troxler who would get this project, presently at a standstill, moving.
- Centennial Landscapes needs Governor's support; Centennial Landscapes promotes agriculture and farmers staying contiguous to their ranges rather than sell their properties to condominiums and businesses, mitigating issues of trying to put easements around ranges.

Economic Development (General Gary McKissock)

The Board of Governors seeks authority from the North Carolina General Assembly to establish residency requirements for military-affiliated students.

- Need clarification of "military-related" for purposes of in-state tuition
- General McKissock felt the Commission should provide support but should let legislative process work
- Requested the Commission Consider passing a resolution at the next meeting providing appropriate support
- Senator Brown concurred with this opinion, and General Dickerson asked Sentaor Brown to consider speaking with Representative Cleveland on this issue

Motion: To a resolution in support of the UNC Board of Governors' plan to put before the Full Commission for a vote at next commission meeting

Discussion: General Martin requested the Military Affairs Section in the Governor's Office to draft a proposed resolution. Major Lumsden agreed to work with Darryl Black on the draft.

Vote: Motion was passed unanimously that those present

Measures were discussed to improve the number of North Carolina Veterans, including members of the National Guard and Reserves, in the workforce.

- A statewide website for job-seekers was suggested along with engaging the Department of Commerce before recommending to Full Commission to define the State's role.
- Joy Thrash added metrics to measure improvement must be established as there are none currently in place to measure success (i.e. determine how many Veterans can be helped, how many jobs exist, how many people are employed, etc.)
- General McKissock added the Commission should be in a position to make recommendations, not enforce policy or create new programs
- The Guard and Reservists have a much harder time finding employment than those that are leaving the Active Component, because of their continued service obligation and the risk this can pose for potential employers
- General Wilson stated Will Collins, within NC Department Commerce, has been given the charge to improve Veteran workforce opportunities and the committee should coordinate efforts with him
- General Dordal suggested coordinating with OSD (Office of Support for Guard and Reserve) so as not to duplicate previous efforts

Legislative Affairs (Senator Harry Brown)

Senator Brown stated the General Assembly will move quickly during the short session, and of the items on the Commission agenda potentially that maybe considered are:

- UNC system may have plan for a bill that can be passed on in-state tuition fees possibly in a short session.
- Strengthening H.B. 484, Encroachment to Military Installations, is possible to be addressed during the short session as well.
- Senator Brown welcomed additional suggestions for other legislature

General McKissock stated that he had information on the wind bill from John Droz who offered to make available these comprehensive recommendations that may be of value to NC

For informational purposes, Senator Brown added it is likely that Alternate Energy Tax credits will expire in 2015, requiring companies to make their sources of energy viable in the market

General Dordal asked if the General Assembly might possibly consider the request Colonel Sanborn, Garrison Commander at Fort Bragg, to allocate of the \$8 million received from Gas Sales on Fort Bragg could be invested into repairing roads and intersections on Fort Bragg (specifically the Odell Road Extension and Entry Control Point (ECP) and the 42 intersections on Fort Bragg that have received a failing rating)

- Darryl Black mentioned the issue could be raised during the upcoming Board of Transportation meeting
- It was also discussed if the best strategy to assist Fort Bragg with these request was to request a one-time appropriation vs. unlimited access to taxes collected through gas sales on the installation
- The legality of use of State funds on installations must be researched
- Senator Brown added that DOT projects that support Military Installations and Readiness add points to the scoring when determining priority
- General Dordal stated that Federal and State dollars could be used for a New entrance at Camp Lejeune and the Odell Road Ext and ECP at Fort Bragg
- Road work on the installation intersections may be more difficult to get passed legal issues

BRAC (General Paul Dordal)

General Dordal spoke about the proposed SWOT analysis and the responses to the RFIs received by the committee:

- The analysis is critical to determine if current goals and ongoing efforts need to be adjusted and it is equally critical as the Commission prepares the Strategic plan
- The RFI had 8 responses which varied from local companies to North Carolina and extend to large national companies with immense experience with BRAC
- The Steering Group members asked if regional and local efforts were being considered as part of the evaluation, General Dordal responded that the commission needed a two prong approach that focused on Statewide Efforts toward the boarder picture with the Federal level with all the Services, and the Regional / Local Efforts focus toward specific Installations
- The consensus among the Steering Group was not to wait for specific regional efforts, rather to evaluate them as part of the study and work with the regional groups to partner with and
- General Dordal stated he would have a request for proposal (RFP) ready for the commission to review on February 18, 2014

Prioritization of Key Committee Issues (Vice Chair Dordal)

Vice Chair Dordal proposed condensing issues to a list of 10 to 12 priorities to present to the Full Commission. This allows the four Committees to present the top three issues each, allowing the commission to be synchronized in our efforts. This also allows the Executive Steering Group and the Committee Chairs to view their priorities, the action plans to achieve those priorities, and the status of the plan.

Additionally, each installation should provide their top two priorities as a separate list. General Dordal stated he would coordinate with Paul Friday to work this with the NCCC. Comparing the two lists will also further enforce a unity of effort across the state. General Martin added that this is an effective method for reporting to both the General Assembly and to the Governor.

Plan for Reporting to NCGA and Governor McCrory (General Martin)

General Martin requested feedback from the Executive Steering Committee Members on the format and content of the report to the General Assembly.

- Senator Brown stated the Commission should narrow the current issues and actions to the top ten priorities and include that in the presentation
- Vice Chair Dordal stated the previous Military Advisory Council had past formats that have been used
- The members all agreed how the Commission plans execute the budget authorized and appropriated by the General Assembly should be included
- The goals and objectives, and a brief description of the SWOT analysis should be included
- Sen. Brown suggested offering some specific dates to the Governor to provide him a presentation of the report
- Senator Brown also recommended the providing report to the Legislature through the Economic Development Committee or another committee (possibly a Joint Select Committee and the Economic Development Committee)
- The report is required every six months, but it is possible to delay the first report to coincide with the Short Session this year
- Senator Brown concurred with delaying the report until the initial three weeks of the General Assembly coming into session this year, further stating they would convene approximately May 15, 2014.
- It was agreed to plan for presenting the report in mid to late May, possibility tied to the Commission meeting on May 20, 2014. This would mean it would be tied to Bankers Association Military Appreciation Day, and the Full Commission meeting. Although it may be difficult to plan and coordinate for, it provides for opportunity to showcase the military and obtain the Governor's attention and support is enhanced by this timing.

NC MAC Strategic Plan (Chair Gen. Martin)

Chair Gen. Martin suggested moving the next Commission meeting closer to the beginning of the year and using the NC MAC Strategic Plan that was published on website last spring in putting together a presentation for the General Assembly, having a strategic plan in print that backs up the State's economic study and that includes Commission members, mission, vision, contains by-laws, subcommittees following the format of the Plan on the website as part of strategy of moving forward for presentation to the GA and the Governor. Vice Chair Dordal and Sen. Brown agreed.

Chair Gen. Martin asked all to look at the last Plan on the website to determine whether all agreed that the general format was acceptable. Gen. Wilson agreed to review the format to

ensure that it is acceptable. Gen. Martin also offered to share with all members the report that he and Vice Chair Dordal worked on that explains the purpose of the MAC.

DC Congressional Delegation Visit Update (Gen. Wilson)

- Budget passed offering some relief to Services about getting through the next 2 years
- An RFI was submitted to the Navy by Senator Hagan concerning possibly moving FA18 Squadron's from NAS Oceania to MCAS Cherry Point. The Navy's response was they were moving two squadrons to the West Coast as part of the rebalance of efforts towards Asia and there are no plans to move any further squadrons from NAS Oceania
- The U.S. House is in discussion on requirement state supported schools to offer the in-state tuition to all veterans using the G.I. Bill. It is expected the bill will pass the House with a wide margin
- Governor's new job plan calls for a State-branding strategy to keep vets here after exiting military service, General Wilson working with Will Collins on this to ensure success
- Future visits by Governor to DC and a visit to Pentagon would likely occur sometime between May and August of this year.
- Congressional Delegation (CODELs) are keeping us apprised of what is taking place in DC area, particularly Representative Jones along with Senators Burr and Hagan.
- There is still a need to have a permanent person with experience in coordinating with Congress and Federal Agencies representing the Governor's Office in Washington, D.C. However, Erica Black is there for administrative support only.
- General Wilson added that the Commandant of the Marine Corps is supportive of our Veterans and Military support initiatives.
- The Governor has requested to be considered for appointment to the Council of Governor's. The Council is comprised of 10 Governors (5 from of each party), and they make recommendations on Military as a whole, the National Guard, and other matters as requested by the President.
- Senator Brown asked what the cost would be to have someone in DC on a full-time basis. General Wilson agreed to research and provide an answer.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADC Innovation Forum (Chair Gen. Martin)

The Committee discussed upcoming trip by General Wilson, General Martin, General Dordal and Major Lumsden to San Antonio on February 9, 2014, for Association of Defense Communities Innovation Forum.

- The forum presents good network opportunity and opportunity to exchange ideas and research public-public and public-private partnerships with installations
- Additionally Generals Martin, Wilson and Dordal have been invited to a meeting with the Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the City Manager of Fayetteville to discuss partnership opportunities

Transportation Board Meeting

Scheduled for February 5, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. and will focus on support to Military Installations and the role of the Military Affairs Advisor and the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission

NC Strategic Plan for the Military

The Governor mentioned his staff was preparing a strategic plan for the Military in North Carolina. General Martin asked General Wilson for clarification on who was responsible to develop and prepare this plan as well as what were any goals and guidance for Commission in relation to the plan.

Additional Business

- Wounded Warriors job fair sponsored by SECNAV is being held on May 28 – 29, 2014 at the North Raleigh Hilton. To date, the program has a 60% job placement rate.
- Major Lumsden requested guidance on how to proceed with joining the various military affiliated associations. General Martin requested a list of all potential organization the Commission could consider joining, with a brief description of their purpose and associated costs be prepared for the next Commission meeting. The Commission would review and determine which association would be most beneficial towards assisting the Commission achieve our goals.

Meeting was adjourned at 1208