NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Full Commission Meeting Minutes Date: February 18, 2014 **Location:** Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC

Members Present: Voting Members: Commission Leadership: Brigadier General Mabry (Bud) Martin, ARNGUS Retired - Chair Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired - Vice Chair

<u>NCGA Members:</u> Representative George Cleveland

<u>Fort Bragg Representatives:</u> Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anderson, USA Retired

<u>Camp Lejeune Representatives:</u> Lieutenant General Gary McKissock, USMC Retired; Major General Bob Dickerson, USMC Retired; Sergeant Major William Hatcher, USMC Retired

<u>Cherry Point Representatives:</u> Colonel Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired, Mr. Creswell Elmore and Mr. Sonny Roberts

<u>Seymour Johnson Representatives:</u> Colonel Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., USA Retired; the Honorable Efton Sager; and Mr. Jeremiah Daniels

<u>Coast Guard Station, Elizabeth City Representative:</u> Commander Bill Lehmann, USCG Retired

<u>At-Large Representatives:</u> Mr. John Matthews

Non-Voting Members: Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC Retired

Ex-Officio Members:

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest Major General Gregory A. Lusk, Adjutant General of North Carolina Brigadier General Robert F. Castellvi, USMC, Commanding General MCI-East Colonel Jeffrey M. Sanborn, USA, Garrison Commander Fort Bragg Captain Sean Murtagh, USCG, Commander USCG North Carolina Sector Colonel Jeannie Leavitt, USAF, Commander Seymour Johnson Mayor Will Lewis Ilario Pantano, Director of NC Veterans Affairs

Authorized Representatives:

Robert L. Hosford, representing Commissioner Steve Troxler

Sebastian Montagne, representing Secretary Tony Tata William A. Crews, representing Secretary Frank Perry Mark Cooney, representing Secretary Susan Kluttz Daryl K. Morrison, representing Secretary Lyons Gray Dr. George Millsaps representing President R. Scott Ralls Kimrey Rhinehardt, representing President Tom Ross Doug Taggart, representing June Atkinson

Not present:

Senator Harry Brown Senator Wesley Meredith General Dan K. McNeill, USA Retired The Honorable George Breece Joshua Glover Joy Thrash Cindy Basenspiler, At-large Brad Ives, representing Secretary John Skvarla Colonel Chris Pappas, USMC Colonel James A. Rupkalvis, USA Captain Donald E. Culkin, USCG Mr. James Simmons Mr. John Bell Mayor Al King Captain Michael Johansson Anna Lea Moore, representing Secretary Sharon Decker Nat Robertson Colonel Blayne H. Spratlin, USMC Colonel Steve A. Baker, USA Colonel Timothy M. Salmon Mayor Joe Peel Mayor Tony Chavonne **Mayor Sammy Phillips**

1230 Welcome

Col. James Clark USMC, welcomed attendees to the NCMAC Full Commission meeting on Camp Lejeune.

1233 Administrative Announcements

MAJ Bobby Lumsden announced that some Committee members were attending via web conference, asked that speakers speak at sufficient volume, described the packets given to voting members, gave the process for submitting expense vouchers for reimbursement by Commerce, and confirmed that a quorum was present.

1240 Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Commission Chair BG Bud Martin, ARNGUS Retired, thanked Col. Clark and asked if anyone had additions to the agenda. A short address by Ilario Pantano of NC Division of Veteran's Affairs was added. The meeting was then called to order.

1250 Agenda Review, Announcements, Correspondence and Chairman's Report

Chairman Martin gave a Powerpoint presentation illustrating an overview of the NC Military Affairs Commission and providing data relative to annual impact, economy, vet population, Commission functions, Committees, Awareness Coordinators, membership/key participants, MAC process flowchart, at-large delegates, base delegates, Commanders' Council. He then reviewed the Commission's format to presenting to the General Assembly and the responsibility of the Legislative Committee to make recommendations to the Executive Steering Group Committee on the best approach for presenting to the General Assembly. Chairman Martin discussed the goal of developing the Commission update in the form of a marketing document with some addendums for the legislative items by the next Full Commission meeting on May 20, 2014, so it could be approved by the Commission for presentation to the Governor and Legislative members.

1300 Consent Agenda

Chairman Martin recommended that Committees read their respective agenda, moved to waive reading of last Full Commission Meeting's minutes, and accept the Minutes as written. The Motion was passed by unanimous consent.

1315 Presentations

UNC Board of Governors In-State Tuition Plan

Ms. Kimrey Rhinehardt presented on the UNC Board of Governors In-State Tuition Plan and indicated that the Board of Governors supports access to in-state tuition to military members and veterans. Ms. Rhinehardt advised that 27 states have passed like legislation, and expects Congress to compel states to offer in-state tuition as part of veterans' benefits. She advised that UNC Board of Governors passed a recommendation to seek authority for North Carolina General Assembly to be able to grant the Board delegated authority to set policy and make changes as necessary, and added that veterans who separate from service need to be provided the opportunity within two years of separation to make plans regardless of where they go. Ms. Rhinehardt addressed the ambiguity of the definition of "residency" for the purposes of in-state tuition as to military and the problems created thereby.

MAJ Bobby Lumsden brought to the attention of all in attendance the in-state tuition draft resolution that was included in voting members' package.

Chairman Martin made a motion to approve the in-state tuition draft resolution as written.

Ex-officio member George Millsaps expressed concern that the State Board had not yet met, and emphasized the need to ensure parity among UNC Board of Governors and Community Colleges.

A motion for question was made. All were in favor. The motion was unanimously passed.

A motion in support of draft resolution was made. All were in favor and the motion unanimously passed.

Military Affairs Office Update

MG Cornell A. Wilson presented on the benefits of the visit to the Pentagon to talk to service chiefs and congressional delegation identifying key points of information that resulted from the visit, and in summary, that overall positive feedback was received from DC about North Carolina's progress regarding maintaining and sustaining military presence. Discussion took place on keeping apprised on relevant legislation across all States, and that the Commission is assigned the task of looking at best practices. NC is 7 or 8 on the axis of being "most military friendly State," and goal is to continue to improve on this placement.

1330 Public Comments/Open Announcements

MAJ Bobby Lumsden addressed calendar of events included in packet from Scott Dorney of NC Military Business Center.

Doug Taggart of Department of Public Instruction addressed the Texas model for what they are doing for military children in education system.

1340 BREAK

1355 Committee Reports, Action Items, Priority List

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs

Mr. Sonny Roberts discussed Cherry Point airspace, ranges and education, improvement of and/or waiver of certification process for teachers and firefighters, access to housing relative to schools, \$8 million in gas sales tax, 911 funds to Ft. Bragg.

The Research Study Committee meeting is reviewing federal employee civilian credits, with key testimony coming from National Guard veterans and working towards legislative solutions.

Quality of Life

LTC Robert Anderson requested excused absence requested on behalf of Cindy Basenspiler, and addressed MWR. John Matthews was invited to discuss DPI and efforts to support representative parents of installation students and active duty family members, development of installation liaisons to coordinate educational issues, prospect of ombudsman for DPI to work with military families in need. Cable fees, 911 fees are being worked locally, with the largest issue being \$8 million in gas tax and the prospect of raising the issue with the Legislative Affairs Committee.

Col. Sandborn raised transportation and infrastructure issues that will not be fixed by military construction dollars and posturing Fort Bragg to be able to compete during the next round of BRAC.

Economic Development

LtGen Gary McKissock addressed looking at the process of connecting departing service members with jobs in North Carolina, inclusive of job fairs, making available resume-writing services, preparing transitioning military, but that the process is still segmented from an end-to-end point of view. There is an upcoming meeting with Commerce to develop solutions.

<u>BRAC</u>

Vice Chair Gen. Paul Dordal gave a Powerpoint presentation, addressed clarification of Request for Proposal ("RFP"), and discussed engagement of a consulting firm with expertise in BRAC with ability to assess COBRA data. He identified the need to position an advocate in Washington DC to lobby key DOD, military services and Congress relative to BRAC issues. A meeting with Cherry Point and Regional Alliance and other community groups during the first week of March is anticipated at which time study results and collaborative efforts to protect installations from BRAC will be discussed.

A Motion was made to amend and strike language from RFP as follows: to remove the funding statement in the RFP, and to modify language to read that "lobbying capabilities are not required," and scope of work is optional, in sub-paragraph (d). Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Legislative Affairs

Rep. George Cleveland presented the federal legislative update on behalf of Sen. Harry Brown. Mr. Cleveland discussed the full cost-of-living increase for pensioners being put back into law; that in-state tuition for military personnel passed the federal House and is expected to pass the Senate, although it is a \$9m-\$10m budget item that will present a problem; the proposed Newport Wind project was discussed, along with keeping the NC National Guard structure in tact as an operational force. Safety concerns, potential health concerns for residents, adverse economic impact to property values due to aesthetics and negative ranking for future BRACs, environmental and wildlife impact were addressed. Newport passed a comprehensive ordinance on tall structures and it is hoped that similar ordinances will be passed countywide. The Committee is identifying legislature to be taken up in the short legislative session. The Hoffman Forest project is moving forward and the related court case pending. Mr. Cleveland discussed the workforce shortage and pushback from licensing agencies. The NCGA Fiscal Research Division was asked to research \$397 million investments into the military over the past ten years. They have been asked to provide a breakout of those expenditures, which will be available at the next meeting.

Executive Steering Group

Vice Chair Gen. Paul Dordal gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Committee's top priorities of protecting military installations, in-state tuition for military-affiliated students, the Hoffman Forest training area, the wind turbine farm and Mill Pond, review of military-related legislation, that transportation issues were discussed with NC Department of Transportation, the need to assess costs of infrastructure repair, integration of veterans, obtaining funding for morale, welfare and recreation (MWR), assist the working lands group, and prepare the Commission's report for the next General Assembly session. Vice Chair Gen. Paul Dordal invited input on the order of priority.

1450 Other Reports

The Commander's Council meeting was summarized by Corporal Evans on behalf of Mr. Paul Friday. The Commander's Council discussed all of the issues currently before the Full Commission.

1500 Unfinished Business

MAJ Bobby Lumsden presented on budget expenditures as of January 31, 2014, and the status of reimbursements and expense vouchers. Maj. Lumsden addressed the issue of reconciling the approved budget with commerce and administration departments.

Ms. Kimrey Rhinehardt addressed PTSD research funding being derived from federal government or other private competitive funding, not from state dollars. UNC Board of Governors publishes a report on research results, budget sources and allocation.

1530 New Business

Director of NC Division of Veteran's Affairs, Ilario Pantano, presented on the Divisions' intentions to reform that agency through a legislative agenda, an interagency agenda, intra-agency agenda, and a communications agenda. Mr. Pantano discussed establishment of a 24/7 call center (844-NC4-VETS) to make various services to veterans accessible relative to health, employment and housing. He distributed a North Carolina Veterans Annual Report 2013 to Commission members. Mr. Pantano addressed the Governor's signing of the Executive Order on Governor's Working Group for Veteran Families on 2/20/14. Mr. Pantano discussed increasing public outreach and private sponsorship relative to needs of veterans. He discussed the Governor's spearheading of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Viet Nam War on Memorial Day.

1550 Future Meetings/Status of Action Items

In closing, Chairman Martin announced that all Chairs and members of the Executive Steering Group along with the community coordinators need to plan and coordinate meetings in advance with Gen. Wilson's office so that information can be timely posted, and that members remain accessible through their respective means of contact. Gen. Wilson asked that military community representatives speak with him to ensure their participation in the function and goals of the Commission. MAJ Lumsden discussed required information for travel reimbursement. Commission Chair General Martin discussed enhancement of the Commission website.

1600 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Commission Chairman Martin.