

North Carolina Military Affairs Commission

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 3, 2013

Location: Fort Bragg Club, Fort Bragg, NC

Members Present:

Voting Members:

Commission Leadership:

Brigadier General Mabry (Bud) Martin, ARNGUS Retired - Chair
Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired - Vice Chair

NCGA Members:

Senator Harry Brown and Representative George Cleveland

Fort Bragg Representatives:

General Dan McNeill, USA Retired; Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anderson, USA Retired; and the Honorable Mr. George Breece

Camp Lejeune Representatives:

Major General Bob Dickerson, USMC Retired and Sergeant Major William Hatcher, USMC Retired

Cherry Point Representatives:

Colonel Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired and Mr. Sonny Roberts

Seymour Johnson Representatives:

Colonel Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., USA Retired; the Honorable Mr. Efton Sager; and Mr. Jeremiah Daniels

Coast Guard Station, Elizabeth City Representative:

Commander Bill Lehmann, USCG Retired

At-Large Representatives:

Mr. John Matthews
Mr. Joshua Glover
Ms. Joy Thrash
Mrs. Cindi Basenspiller

Non-Voting Members:

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest
Representative John Bell
Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC Retired
Mr. Tom Ross
Mr. Scott Ralls
Mayor Will Lewis
Brigadier General Robert F. Castellvi, USMC
Colonel Jeffrey M. Sanborn, USA
Colonel Chris Pappas, USMC
Colonel Jeannie Leavitt, USAF
Colonel Steve A. Baker, USA
Colonel Timothy M. Salmon
Captain Sean Murtagh, USCG Sector, NC

Authorized Representatives:

Anna Lea Moore representing Secretary Sharon Decker
Mr. Chris Russo representing Secretary John Skvarla
Dewitt Hardee representing Commissioner Steve Troxler
Colonel Todd Hunt representing Major General Gregory A. Lusk
Ms. Emily Dickens representing President Tom Ross
Dr. George Millsaps representing President R. Scott Ralls

Members not present:

LTG (R) Gary McKissock
Mr. Creswell Elmore
Senator Wesley Meredith
Secretary Frank Perry
Secretary Tony Tata
Mayor Joe Peel
Mayor Tony Chavonne
Mayor Al King
Mayor Sammy Phillips
Assistant Secretary Ilario Pantano
Captain Donald E. Culkin, USCG
Colonel Blayne H. Spratlin, USMC
Colonel James A. Rupkalvis, USA

Meeting was called to order at 1240

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

Major General Cornell Wilson, USMC Retired, was introduced as the Governor's Military Affairs Advisor and his replacement on the Commission, Cindi Basenspiller, was introduced. Mrs. Basenspiller is the executive director of the Charlotte Bridge Home. She will also serve on the Quality of Life Committee.

The new members of the Commission were sworn in

Agenda Review was conducted

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anderson, USA Retired, asked that a discussion on the potential closure of the Commissaries be added to the agenda – **Was added to New Business**

Announcements were made in conjunction with the Chairmen's Report

On November 6, 2013, Governor McCrory and Secretary Perry, Department of Public Safety, announced the first Veterans Court in North Carolina.

Chairman Martin discussed the review of the bylaws and the amount of analysis and effort that went into the final draft that has been presented in the consent agenda for approval. The largest amount of time and effort was spent on developing a job description for each position to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.

Chairman Martin discussed the requirement to provide a commission report to the General Assembly every 6 months. After reviewing the timeline, the first report must be prepared by March 2014. This allows any items requiring Legislative Action to be prepared by the start of the session in May 2014.

Chairman Martin expressed his appreciation that all committee chairs and members have been identified and all have conducted their initial meetings, some with multiple meetings already.

Chairman Martin discussed the need to constantly assess our goals and to add metrics to evaluate the commission's performance and effectiveness towards reaching the goals set forth by statute and the bylaws. By having measures of effectiveness and

performance, the commission ensures actions are focused and prevents redundant or unnecessary actions.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Martin asked if anyone required any item from the Consent Agenda to be removed in order to allow for further discussion

- No issues were brought forth.

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to waive the requirement to verbally read the minutes from the last commission meeting

- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the last commission meeting, all committee meeting minutes since the last commission meeting, and approval of the NCMAC Bylaws

- Motion was made and seconded
- Chairman Martin asked if any discussion was required – nothing heard
- Motion was passed unanimously

Presentations

Jonathan Harris, Governor's Legal Counsel, presented the Open Meeting and Public Disclosure requirements to the members of the Commission.

Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC Retired, presented the roles and responsibilities of the Governor's Military Affairs Advisor to the members of the commission.

Chairman Martin referenced the list of Military Affiliate Organizations within the state. While this list is short, the idea is to list as many of these organizations as possible and to see where they fit into the goals of the NCMAC. This will help to ensure the NCMAC and these type organizations are not working opposed to one another, rather help identify common areas in which the NCMAC and these organizations can work together to achieve the goals and vision of both the NCMAC and the organization. Chairman Martin asked if members of the commission or if other present had organizations that could be added to the list to provide that information.

A recommendation was made by Joy Thrash to align identified organizations with the committees and subcommittees of the NCMAC to ensure communication and efforts are coordinated between the commission efforts and the Affiliate Organizations.

Chairman Martin Opened the floor for public comments

Nothing was heard

Break was conducted from 1325 until 1335

Chairman Martin reopened the floor for public comments and other Announcements:

Ms. Cindi Basenspiller, Executive Director Charlotte Bridge Home informed the committee what her non-profit organization does for the military and added if members needed her card of additional information she would be able to provide after the meeting.

Major General Wilson Jr., USMC Retired, announced that Governor McCrory would be going to Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2013 to meet with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Director of the Naval Staff, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Following his meetings at the Pentagon, Governor McCrory will meet with members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to discuss important issues about military affairs in North Carolina.

Mrs. Anna Lea Moore, representing Secretary Decker from the Department of Commerce, announced that the NC Department of Commerce has recently released the findings of a study entitled, "The Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina." She stated that members of the Commerce team are prepared to provide a brief to the NC Military Affairs Commission, and stated copies of the report can be found on the NC Commerce website.

Scott Dorney with the NC Military Business Center made the announcement that Marine Corps Installations East will hold a small business outreach event in early to mid-March 2014.

Committee Reports were presented

Sonny Robert, Committee Chair, presented the report for the Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee. The Committee Meeting minutes were provided in

each packet for voting members of the Commission and are available on the NCMAC website for all others.

- The Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee has conducted two meetings prior to the full commission meeting
- The first meeting the chair and vice chair were nominated and elected
- Discussion concerning the potential Wind Turbines construction along the initial approach onto the Dare County ranges was a focus for the first meeting
- Hoffman Forest usage was also of concern and spoke about in detail
- The committee had a number of guest speakers and presenters that spoke on topics such as encroachment into or near military operations and training areas
- Compatible Land Use Initiatives, Buffer Zones, Airspace Management, Hoffman Forest, and additional land needed for training for all installations were the focus of discussion following the presentations
- During the second meeting, concern was expressed about the number of assignments and tasks required for committees would overwhelm the voting commission members
- It was determined that Ex-Officio could serve in committee assignments
- Discussion was once again focused on Compatible Land Use Initiatives, Buffer Zones, Airspace Management, and additional land needed for training

LTC Robert Anderson, USA Retired, Committee Chair, presented the report for the Quality of Life Committee. The committee meeting minutes were provided in each packet for voting members of the commission and are available on the NCMAC website for all others.

- The first issue to discuss is the potential closing of the commissaries, as this is a huge benefit to the soldiers, especially to the lower ranks, that could have serious impacts on the Quality of Life
- Committee Chair Anderson asked that the commission prepare a letter to the Governor asking for his support, but also sending a leader to key DoD officials asking them not to close commissaries
 - Committee Chair Anderson asked for a motion To approve the writing of the Letter
 - Discussion: Numerous comments were made, however, the garrison commander asked that the wording of the letter not focus solely on the commissary, rather focus on access to low cost groceries for military members and their dependents
 - Vote: By Commission to table the motion and send it back to the Quality of Life Committee

- Resolved: For Quality of Life Committee to conduct a study on the benefits of the Commissaries for the active duty military and retirees of North Carolina and to be put on the Action Items list
- Committee Chair Anderson asked for consideration to once again allocate state funding for the MWR program at military installations, stating it should be a top priority for the Commission if it could be funded and supported by the Legislators
- Additionally, the committee stated providing in-state tuition rates for military service members and families to be added to the priorities for the commission

The Committee Chair for the Economic Development Committee was unavailable to issue his report. The commission members were directed to the meeting minutes which were provided in each packet for voting members of the commission and are available on the NCMAC website for all others.

Brigadier General Paul Dordal, USAF Retired, Committee Chair, presented the report for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee. The committee meeting minutes were provided in each packet for voting members of the commission and are available on the NCMAC website for all others.

- The initial meeting held looked at initial strategies for BRAC and what organizations throughout the State that look at some type of BRAC preparation (do not understand the last statement)
- Wanted to ensure the Committee was all inclusive in the communities and installations within North Carolina, and planning was deliberate and conducted with a sense of urgency
- Senate Bill 613 designates the NCMAC as the leading role for BRAC and the Committee is dedicated to leading that effort and working with other State, Local, and Private agencies to ensure a unity of efforts is maintained throughout any future BRAC strategies and planning
- Initial steps include influencing DoD Leadership and the NC Congressional Delegation – This begins with the Governor's trip to Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2013
- Committee Chair Dordal asked for a motion to approve publishing a request for Information (RFI) concerning a study on North Carolina Installations and a SWOT analysis as they relate to potential BRAC. This RFI is to go out prior to next full commission meeting
 - Motion was made and seconded
 - Discussion: It is a simple request to allow companies to provide the commission and committee with feedback if there is an interest in conducting, and for the companies to provide examples of other similar

studies that have already been conducted. This does not obligate the Commission to any funding requirements.

- Vote: The Commission approved the RFI to be completed, reviewed and approved by the BRAC Committee, then published and released for companies to respond

Senator Harry Brown, Committee Chair, presented the report for the Legislative Committee.

- Review of the bylaws and committee elections were the first order of business for the committee meeting
- Committee continues discussion concerning Hoffman Forest and the planned usage of the land after the sale is finalized
- The Committee also has concerns about the wind farm in Newport
- Commission and Committee must ensure all required easements are in place and if not work with the Installations and Legislative to take appropriate action
- Senator Brown emphasized the need to travel to Washington, DC to meet with the NC congressional delegation (CODEL) and ask for their cooperation to work together on issues relating to BRAC
- December 4, 2013, has been designated as a potential date to visit the CODEL to begin establishing some unity of effort ensuring military infrastructure remains near current levels

Other Reports

Mr. Paul Friday presented the key highlights from the Commander's Council Meeting. The meeting included discussions on the following items

- Air Force Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)/ Recovery and Sustainment Program (RASP) by Mr. Chris Russo
- Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Market Based Conservation Initiative (MBCI) update by Mr. Dewitt Hardee
- Wind Energy Update by Mr. Mike Evers
- Hofmann Forest by Mr. Paul Friday
- Commander's Reports

Major General Cornell Wilson, USMC Retired, presented the Budget report and discussed the methodology for the budgeting allocations.

- 10% (or \$100,000) of the approved funding was allocated administration of the commission

- 90% (\$900,000) is allocated to measures to maintain North Carolina installations from possible losses due to future BRACs and to focus on means and ways to make North Carolina desirable for increasing force structure within NC
- Discussion where held concerning allocating a portion of the funding to the Communities in which the major installations were located.
- Chairmen Martin stated the way in which the funding was handled by the previous administration would not carry forward stating more oversight would be required by the Commission
- The communities may present their request for funding to be considered by the Commission, however they must also have a plan of action to show how the funding will be used

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was required

New Business

Governor McCrory's trip to Washington D. C. on Wednesday, 4 December 2013, to meet with select service chiefs and North Carolina Legislative Delegation was discussed.

The Executive Steering Group (ESG) recommended that the Commission become a member of the Association of Defense Communities.

- Motion: To approve becoming a member of the Association of Defense Communities.
- Vote: Motion approved-19 in Favor, one opposed

Chairman Martin proposed the 2014 meeting schedule, to take place in Raleigh at the National Guard Joint Force Headquarters building. On the following Tuesdays:

- 18 February 2014
- 20 May 2014
- 16 September 2014
- 16 December 2014

MG (R) Bob Dickerson requested at the next commission meeting that a report be given on the TBI/PTSD research by the UNC School RNC team.

Jenny Hartsock-Senator Hagan's Office: Reported on the KC-46 air refueling tanker criteria for base assignment of new fleet and dates on when deadlines and announcement are made.

- 2015-Air Forces bases send supporting criteria to Congress
- 2016 Fall-Top supportive Air Forces bases are selected
- 2016 Spring-Selected Bases are announced

Action Items:

Action Item spreadsheet was reviewed and the commission was shown the living document on the tracking procedures for each item. Members were told all committee updates per action item were to be sent to Major Bobby Lumsden to make the necessary updates to the spreadsheet.

Meeting was adjourned at 1530

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'VZ', written in black ink.