



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 1st Quarter, January 26, 2021
Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487 Conference ID: 856 489 686#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Warner, Chairman
Bill Hatcher
Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill
Patricia Harris
Julie Daniels

NCMAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Edward Reeder.

OTHER NCMAC MEMBERS:

Rep George Cleveland

DMVA STAFF:

Ariel Aponte
Kelly Jackson

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs
Mark Patton, MCEC
Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg School Support Svcs
Howard Lattimore, Fort Bragg Schools
Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools
Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools
Julie Fulton, MCI-East School Liaison
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools
Brittany Norman, Onslow County Schools
Gerhard Guevarra, Cumberland County Schools
Leafe Palmer, MCAS Cherry Point School Liaison
Bryan Ayers, Camp Lejeune/NCCC
Michael Scalise, Camp Lejeune/NCCC
Cristy Barnes-Williams
Siobhan Norris, UNC Systems
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Doug Taggart, DPI
Shadia Young, Fort Bragg ACS
Nick Sojka, NC Interstate Compact Chairman
Maureen Stover, 2020 NC Teacher of the Year
Max Dolan
Paul Berry, Veteran Bridge Home
Delvin Benz

OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:05 and welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. He had a quorum of voting members. He said that it looked like we had a lot of people attending the meeting today. He knows that we all want to have our meeting in person, and we will get back to having our meeting that way. He also talked about the new NC Superintendent for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Catherine Truitt. She is a military spouse, and her husband is a Navy Academy Graduate. She is very familiar with the military issues and that can only be helpful as we move forward. Chairman Warner said that he wanted to do the ethics requirement. He said that we have a legal obligation to disclose any conflict of interests that may or may not arise or potentially arise with your regular job or any of your business of the Quality of Life committee. If you have a potential conflict, he asks that you disclose that potential conflict, so we are aware of potential conflict. Does anyone have such a conflict? Does anyone have any potential

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conflict of interest with the business on the agenda and if not, please be cognizant of any potential conflicts that arise from the discussion topics and govern yourself accordingly. Kelly Jackson informed the committee that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had a new Secretary. LtGen (R) Walter E. Gaskin had been appointed by Governor Cooper to lead the Department. He is a retired Marine with many years of exemplary service. He had an impressive resume and has been a member of the NC Military Affairs Commission for a short period. We are glad to have him leading the Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner said that the committee had a quorum and would approve the 4th Quarter draft Quality of Life minutes from October 20, 2020 from the voting members. Patricia Harris made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Gerald A. Rudisill and passed by a unanimous vote.

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN: NICK SOJAK

Nick Sojak said that he could give an update on what continues to be part of the conversation about the possibility of the inclusion of our National Guard and Reserve families under the Compact. There is a realization that that is coming and will be a multi-year project. At the National Level there is a lot of support for that. He also wanted to mention something closer to home and now that the General Assembly is back in session. He will be in touch with the leader of his local delegation, Rep Szoka about the technical correction that was in the 4th Quarter minutes and that Doug Taggart had talked about at the last meeting reference recently retired military connected families are included under advance enrollment and early attendance.

VETERAN BRIDGE HOME: PAUL BERRY

Since 2010: One Family at a time.

Military Life:

- Mission
- Unit
- Support

Bridge the Transition Hurdle:

Civilian Life:

- Purpose
- Connection
- Care

Veteran Bridge Home Program Areas:

- Jobs: Employer Alliance: 250+ Companies
- Friends: Veterans Network: 10,000+ Veterans
- Resources: Care Network: NCSERVES 170+ Providers

Strong Families

Be the Bridge:

- Purpose
- Connection
- Care

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Stronger Community

10 Years of Impact:

Year	Families	Services
2010	4	
2011	13	89
2012	88	211
2013	215	516
2014	373	895
2015	595	1428
2016	1188	2851
2017	1312	3214
2018	1359	3285
2019	1841	3933
2020	2430	5632
TOTAL	9418	22,054

Regional Coverage:

- 4 Major Markets
 - Charlotte
 - TRIAD
 - TRIANGLE
 - Fort Bragg
- 49 Counties
 - 45 in NC & 4 in SC
- 450,000 Veterans
- 174 Partners
- 200+ Companies

NCSERVES: America's First Statewide Coordinated Care Network for Veteran Families

- NCSERVES – 5 year statewide snapshot
 - 4 NCServes Networks
 - 16,656 Unique Clients All-Time
 - 40,789 Service Requests All-Time
 - 372 Participating Organizations

77% Resolved Outcomes:

- Client Military Affiliation
 - 82% Service Members/Veterans
 - 9% Spouse/Caregiver
 - 9% Undisclosed
- Typical Time to Match:
 - Average Time to Match – 13 Days
 - Median Time to Match – 3 Days
- Typical Service Duration:
 - Median Duration – 9 Days

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Accountability & Transparency:

- What do our clients need?
 - Housing & Shelter
 - Employment
 - Benefits Navigation
 - Social Enrichment
 - Money Management
 - Legal
- NCServes – 2019 Statewide Snapshot
- NCServes Overview – Provider Adoption
- NCServes – Metrolina All Time Leader Board

Contact information:

www.veteransbridgehome.org

704-332-8802

Discussion: Doug Taggart said that the Unite Us tool that they have is the most amazing technology tool that he has seen for case management and includes so many different organizations. He appreciates the work that they are doing. Paul Berry said that it does prevent clients from falling through the cracks. They will always call the Veteran back and if they cannot reach them they will go to their house to ensure they are getting the help they need. Gerald Rudisill asked what success have you had with linking with Active Duty bases on discharges from Active Service that want to stay in North Carolina? Paul Berry said that discharge upgrades are a spot on question. With all of the services that his group does discharge upgrades is a low number, but it is the hardest to get measurable outcomes on. He is currently working with Wake Forest University, Central Carolina, UNC, and NC State legal departments because their departments do pro bono work. This needs to be more than a Veteran clicking on a link and saying I need a discharge upgrade. There are thousands of Veterans that have Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharges and many of them could be upgraded and then they could have a better quality of life for themselves and their families. This is something that we really need to lean into. Gerald Rudisill said that he applauds them for working on this issue. Mark Patton said that Blueprint had the Legal Aid of North Carolina speak to them in November and they now have a team who are working on discharge upgrades. Paul Berry said that he was aware of the new development. Chairman Warner said that John Volker heads the UNC Law School Clinic and they specifically focus on discharge upgrades. Paul Berry said that he is one of his contacts and when they get into a bind they can always reach out to him because of his selfless service. Chairman Warner said that this is a critical issue and can be related to suicide and other issues. When we talk about discharge upgrades we are talking about minor misconduct and things like that.

K-12 AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI) UPDATES/ISSUES:

Chairman Warner said that one of the K-12 updates/issues.

Valerie Nasser gave an update on the Purple Star program. She said that all of the counties surrounding installations have multiple applicants and in Craven County they have 21 out of their 25 schools have applied. Everyone has embraced the program, even during this pandemic that the administrator,

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counselors and teachers are dealing with. Chairman Warner said that he had seen a national article talking about North Carolina coming on board with this program which was great news. He asked what the target dates are for the applications. Valerie Nasser said that the applications are due on February 1, 2021 for this year. She also wanted to add that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a piece that all districts/counties around installations will be evaluated for quality of life and K-12 education plays a big role in that. She said that Jamie Livengood can talk more about that since the Air Force has already implemented a Report Card and this will be coming to all of the other Services. Jamie Livengood said that Valerie Nasser was talking about the Air Force ratings that we have. They did education and licensure. She has done a deep dive into this but will not go into that today. She thinks that other Branches will do something similar to this. The goal when the researcher was putting this together was to use data that was nationwide and data that was accessible to anyone. With that thought in mind, that is what comprised the Report Card that they developed. One other thing that they wanted to note about the Purple Star, and she knows that the other districts may not have calculated their numbers yet. But for her school district, they can say that they are having 32 of their 32 schools apply for the Purple Star program. But when she and Cristy Barnes-Williams added the total number of staff members in their district that were trained through their Purple Star program. They calculated that they trained 1,675 staff members regarding military student and family needs. They did not realize the vast number until they did the calculation for their district and how many thousand across the state have been trained. This is one small example of what the Purple Star program is doing across the State. Chairman Warner said that it was making an impact. Julie Fulton wanted to let the group know how proud she was of North Carolina for making our Purple Star criteria so meaty and including the transition program requirement for our school. Now the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Schools are allowed to apply for the Purple Star program. She had one of her DoDEA schools with over 500 military students that never had a transition program before. They have now starting the EAGLE Ambassador this year and it will make a big impact on the new students coming into that school. Chairman Warner said that when you send out the MLO/SLO things get done. Mark Patton said that the report that had been sent out was the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) report on the Purple Star. He is now tasked in his new job to develop some short videos about the Purple Star to get certified. They are looking at how to go out to the other counties in the State and use North Carolina as an example since they have just gotten into this program. He has just loaded one of their tools, School Quest, it is an automatic way a family can load documents when in Permanent Change of Station (PCS) status and as part of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) we are getting schools to say they will accept these unofficial documents. He is now in Morehead City and available to conduct professional development both virtually and in person that meet those same staff training guidelines. Doug Taggart said that he had an update from Dr. Mullinex. There are about 100 applications so far this year, which is down from last year. They are hoping for more applications to be sent in. If there are fewer applications it could be due to COVID and all that the schools and staff have had to deal with. Their priorities have been very different this year.

Chairman Warner asked about delayed Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders and stop movement. Anything new on this topic and what type of impact is this having and how are people address these issues. Rollie Sampson said that her school district is very flexible on this topic when it comes to working with inbound and outbound families. She is already seeing an influx of families contacting her both inbound and outbound. She is helping them to navigate that transition. For the families in her school

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system that are already virtual, she can help them to remain virtual while they are transitioning to the next duty station. It is much more difficult if they are in in-person instruction because they cannot change them to a virtual program. They are trying to look at all of their options for these outbound families. The biggest change will be with the high school students and also for families with children with special needs. There is a huge focus with Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) families and do these families have children with an individual education plan and how we are serving them across State lines. This is getting a Congressional look, so they are trying to be very proactive in how they transition those families and reviewing the Individual Education Program (IEP) before they even show up in State. We want to ensure that they are being placed correctly and get all of the supporting documentation we need. They are having some issues with the DoDEA schools as they are not providing any of the testing for the military family because they are virtual and cannot get to that information. Military families are still experiencing a high level of frustration when it comes to PCS moves. In North Carolina, whether we accept those PCS orders is up to the discretion of the school district. The law says we can, but the school districts are not compelled to except them to start that enrollment process. Kirk Warner said that we need to identify Best Practices to share and pass that information on and asked Rollie Sampson to do that. Also, access what we can do as a group and what we need to weigh in on. Those are the two critical things that we need to be looking for. The third thing that he wanted to follow up on, from the NC Commander's Council and the NC Reserve Component that nothing yet had dramatically effected readiness. He wants everyone to keep their ears open for those type of issues that could affect readiness in a negative way. Doug Taggart said that he has not had any calls around enrollment denial for students but that does not mean that there are not some out there. Howard Lattimore said that they are not having any issues at this time. Julie Fulton said that she is working on an issue right now that she is not sure if it is delayed enrollment or COVID related. She just emailed Cynthia Flood this morning about a student who left Topsail High School and went to San Diego. Because North Carolina allowed students to have a pass or fail for credits in the Spring semester when they were learning remotely. The school in San Diego will not accept the pass/fail grade and are telling the student that they have to retake the class or come up with a percent grade. She is working with the counselors through DPI to see if Topsail High School can go back and give the school a percent grade and redo the transcript. There is an issue with this since the child has already left the North Carolina school system. Chairman Warner said that maybe DPI could make a call, this issue is ridiculous. Rollie Sampson asked if this was not a MIC3 issue? Julie Fulton said that they are working to see if there is a waiver that can be done by North Carolina for a percentage grade and then with the San Diego counsel to see if they will accept the percentage grade. If they get stuck, then they will go to the MIC3 for assistance. Doug Taggart asked Julie Fulton to keep him updated on this matter. Nick Sojka also asked Julie Fulton to keep him updated on this case.

MLO/SLO UPDATES:

Camp Lejeune: Julie Fulton said that she had nothing else. The Purple Star program is going well, and they will have a lot more applications for the February 1st deadline.

Onslow County: Brittany Norman said that she agrees that that there will be more applications for the Purple Star program.

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Cherry Point: Leafa Palmer said that there is excitement for the Purple Star program and more schools are reaching out to her for help on the applications.

Craven County: Valerie Nasser said that she wanted to add one more thing. As part of the DoDEA grant that Craven County schools had, they were able to add wellness rooms to three of their schools. Those rooms focus on mental health awareness and help the students with stress, trauma, and other things. They are looking forward to using them when the students are back to in-person education.

Fort Bragg: Iris Pierce said that she wanted to talk about some mental health concerns. She wants to commend Cleveland County Schools with the transition of a Junior going to Alaska to a public school during testing. The student was not able to be in the in-person testing but allowed her to complete on-line testing for her math class and waived the course so the child could pass the grade. Cleveland County was not aware of the MIC3 and information on MIC3 was shared with them for a smooth transition for the child and her family. She is working with the DPI school of mental health initiative and she is on a sub-committee with the school of mental health. They are looking for military families in the other branches of service to serve on this committee. They want to get a group of community stakeholders so that the awareness can get out there that we have military families throughout the state that are not aware of all of the resources. She will reach out to people on this meeting to see if they want to be part of this committee. Gerhard Guevarra said that they have a variety of families that are moving in and out of the area and a variety of issues that they are working on. Mr. Nick Sojka has been very helpful with MIC3 type issues that have been identified. They have a robust communication line with the Command at Fort Bragg. They have a weekly Dashboard and Summary update that goes to the Garrison Commander and also to the Installation Commander's. They are seeing some of the same issues as others on this meeting. They are also assisting with the Purple Star applications

Cumberland County: Howard Lattimore said that they are working through the quarantine once they get overseas. They quarantine before they go and then again once they get to the other side. Also linking the recruiters to the high school counselors. They have a recruiter roundup next Tuesday evening and the recruiters will be online with the Juniors and Seniors. They have not been able to have that face to face contact this year. In June they will be losing all of the transition counselors which will be an impact for Cumberland County.

Moore County: Rollie Sampson said that all of her schools have applied for the Purple Star program. In reference to legislation. She is more involved in Impact Aid than others of her counterparts. It is important to know that due to a lot of lobbying the Corona Relief Act passed and this allowed school districts to use there last year data for this year's Impact Aid. That is significant for them. She also knows that her school district, Cumberland County and maybe Onslow County applied to be part of the pilot program for the Department of Education in doing Impact Aid electronically. This is a labor intensive process and costly process. There is the goal to convert to an all-electric process the following year. The good news is that we will not see a loss in Impact Aid funding over this next year but maintain what you received last year. In response to Howard Lattimore, they have been required to remotely enroll families with PCS orders. DoDEA does not do remote enrollment and the family cannot enroll until they are physically on sight. So, when they get to the other Country, all of the travel time and the

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quarantine time, means that the child can be out of school for 3-4 weeks and then start the enrollment process. Chairman Warner said that we may need to take a look at that. Howard Lattimore said that he has asked them to get with their SLO as soon as they get into the Country and start the process.

Seymour Johnson AFB: Cristy Barnes-Williams said that the Base has adopted one of the low performing schools in Wayne County, Carver Heights Elementary. There are two programs that the Airmen can assist with. There is a Seymour Studies where the Airmen help to tutor students that are lower performing in that school. Those students go to the Base twice a month, have lunch in the Dining Facility (DFAC) and the leadership pays for them to have a hot breakfast. They receive tutoring on math and reading from the school curriculum. Each unit on the base rotates the tutoring and then the students go on a field trip after the tutoring is completed. This program is starting to grow. They are going to try to get this program over into the Middle school and the children in this program will be able to continue this tutoring program. Hopefully, this can also go into the high school. The other initiative in that school is the Eagle Academy. This is for the higher performing students. Those students will have to do an application and be referred by their peers to be part of the Academy. Those students will receive an individual mentor who will help and guide them on life skills and academics in the pursuit of them joining the Air Force. This program just started in October and in November they went out to the homes of the students who had been selected to join the Academy and Coined them. This is a big thing to happen for the Community. The other big news is the proposal between the Base and Wayne County Schools. There is a proposal for a Public School to be placed on the Installation. There is a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has been signed by the Board of Education, Seymour Johnson AFB Leadership and County Commissioners. The School would be staffed by the Public School System and be a Public School but use a facility on the Installation. This will be a school of Technical Arts and called Wayne School of Technical Arts. It will be focused on video production, recording, coding language and different technical types of careers that students could apply for. They will start out with about 100 students and the focus is high school right now but could expand up or down with grades depending on the interest. It will be a lottery and they will have 50% military students and 50% community students, and they will all submit applications. She has had people reaching out to her about his new imitative by other Services. The goals are for this school to open up in Fall of 2022. Chairman Warner said that was great stuff. He can see this type of program taking off. Jamie Livengood said that with the exploration of this new school they have received a lot of press and she would love to see that same type of press and interest around all of the work in general that is being done to support military students and families across the state. She thinks about the NC Military Affairs Commission, readiness, and quality of life issues and if we could get some good mileage once those Purple Star announcements and sharing all of the good things that we have going on. Jamie Livengood said that we have a guest with us today. She would like Howard Lattimore to introduce our guest today.

NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR: MAUREEN STOVER:
"Leadership Lessons"

Transitioning from the Military into Teaching

Preparing to Teach:

She used her experience as an Officer, Key Spouse, Spouses Crisis Action Network Coordinator, Souses Club Scholarship Chair, and Command Spouse as an Educator.

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Continued Service:

As an Educator, she uses the lessons she learned in her military service to continue serving her school community.

- Being a Leader in the Military and in the Classroom
- Passion
- Purpose
- Opportunity Seeker
- Relationship Builder
- Problem Solver
- Team Multiplier

Your Passion Your Purpose:

- Your Ikigai (Reason for Being)

Changing Failure into Opportunity:

- How we think success should look.
- How success actually looks.

Cultivating Multipliers:

- Be a Genius-Maker, not a Genius Team Mentality
- Providing framework for others to succeed
 - Students
 - Colleagues
- Leveraging Strengths

In Path Forward:

- Provide opportunities for Military members to experience education as a transitional career.
 - Troops to Teachers
 - Collaboration between Military Installation and Local school district
- Streamline Licensure for Military members and Spouses.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI): DOUG TAGGART

Doug Taggart said that the Troops to Teachers was still going to be defunded. They will not know for sure until the new Secretary of Defense reviews the budget from last year and if they will make any changes. He is planning for the shutdown to be around mid-May. The military student identifier is due at the end of January and he should have data by mid-February. Chairman Warner asked about the new DPI Superintendent. Doug Taggart said that he knows her as the Education Advisor for Governor McCrory and then she transitioned to Western Governors University (WGU). We have been pushing the stuff in WGU partnership with Catherine Truitt and our packets because it is a great education prep program for mobile military spouses and military members that are trying to finish an education program.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: REPRESENTATIVE CLEVELAND

Representative George Cleveland said that they are gearing up for the new session which will start tomorrow, and bills will start to be introduced. The bill that we had last year that died or stolen will be re-introduced if he can. Bryan Ayers said that he appreciated Rep Cleveland re-introducing the bill which was Bill 1047 on education for students. He said that one of the issues for this bill last year was about Homeschoolers having to register. He has spoken with his school liaison Julie Fulton and the consensus was there are more important portions of that bill and if we can drop the homeschool language from the bill and then re-introduce the bill. Rep Cleveland said that did make the bill fail in the House, but the Senate bill came over without that language but got used for another purpose. The bill he will be introducing will not have the homeschool language in it and he will address that in a different manner. Bryan Ayers that was good news and he just wanted to know how the bill would be moving forward. Chairman Warner said that if you come across legislation that needs to move forward we will get that legislation to our legislative members and committee that can tackle those matters.

NEW BUSINESS:

Patricia Harris, Women Veterans Support Services, Inc.

Our Mission: To address the unique needs of Women Veterans and Active-Duty Military members requiring emergency shelter due to homelessness or domestic violence. We ensure our service women, and their children are supported with the services they have earned.

Our Services: We provide specialized care and hope for women who are serving, or who have served, their county and are experiencing crisis:

- Secure immediate needs (Shelter, Food, Clothing and etc)
- Connect to and navigate benefits process.
- Support Women Veterans, Peer-to-Peer, through crisis, trauma, and transition.

Women Veterans Support Services (WVSS) Crime Victims Services Report

- Eligible Participants: Active-Duty Military, Veterans, Women Veterans and Families.
- Location and Number of Active Duty Served:
 - Cumberland 9
 - Craven 5
 - Onslow 7
 - Wayne 3
 - Wake 4
- Program Participants
 - Individuals Receiving Direct Services 18
 - Anonymous Contacts (Social Media, Text, Crisis Line) 32
 - New Clients 18
- Participant Demographics
 - White 5
 - Black 11
 - Hispanic/Latino 2

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Service Status, Age and Gender

- Veteran
 - Gender
 - Male 3
 - Female 15
 - Age
 - 18-24 Years 2
 - 25-59 Years 16
- Active Duty
 - Gender
 - Male 2
 - Female 26
 - Age
 - 18-24 Years 10
 - 25-59 Years 18
- Special Populations
 - Homeless 14
 - LGBTQ 1
 - Veterans 16
 - Disabilities 5

Crimes Report:

Type of Victimization	Total PROJ013640 WVSS Crime Victims Served	Total PROJ013640 WVSS Crime Victims on Active Duty Served
Adult Physical	6	1
Adult Sexual	7	6
Bullying	3	8
Domestic and Family Violence	26	5
DUI/DWI Incidents	1	0
Kidnapping (Custodial)	1	0
Kidnapping (Non-Custodial)	1	0
Stalking/Harassment	8	7
Participants presenting more than one type of Victimization	5	

Direct Services Intake and Referrals:

Information and Referral Requests:	Total Served
Information about the criminal justice process (Active Duty)	5 (1)
Referral to other victim service programs (Active Duty)	35 (5)
Referral to services, supports and resources (Active Duty)	49 (20)
Shelter and Housing Services:	Total Served
Emergency Shelter or Safe House (Active Duty)	9 (3)
Transitional Housing	2
Relocation Assistance (Include Housing Navigation Assistance)	5 (1)

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SHARED CONCERNS OF OUR CLIENTS:

WVSS has served 28 Active-Duty members 10/31/2019 – 09/30/2020.

- 2 identified as Male 26 identified as Female.
- Counties represented has Military Installations in or near the Communities: Cumberland, Craven, Onslow, Wake and Wayne.
- Sexual Abuse/Harassment: 6 of 28 reported “Some distrust of system and fear of retaliation” “Chain of Command Covers for the perpetrator” “Nothing will happen”.
- Bullying 8 of 28 reported “Social Media and Cyber Threats”
- Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) 5 of 28 reported. COVID 19 had an impact on when and where they filed the report.
- Stalking/Harassment 7 of 28 reported. Of these numbers, concerns were shared with Chain of Command or Room Mates. Some expressed personal fears as media reports of deaths among Active-Duty women and men. Awareness of Human Trafficking.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Patricia A. Harris

sgtpattycak1wvss@gmail.com

Comments: Mr. Benz said that it is not just that the individuals are afraid because of what they have seen in the media and those concerns are there. They have doubts about their Chain of Commands and the Climate inside of the military. They can look and see what is happening around them to others that try to make reports. They can see the treatment of those people that make up the reports. Also, what is inherently structured in the family advocacy program which is centered around domestic violence. The real connection between domestic violence and sexual violence is once a person has been a victim of domestic violence they cannot render consent to any activity beyond that point. The victim is left alone to make those decisions. This younger generation has seen when coming into the military that we have lost our moral high ground. They see the priority of what is given to drug related issues and day to day issues but what they do not see is that same priority is given to domestic violence or sexual violence. What that sets up is even in the family advocacy program that does not conform to federal victim rights laws. There is no transparency, no oversight, and no representation by the victims. The individuals that run those programs will probably proclaim that they are not subject to any laws or judicial oversight. They will also say that they are not subject to the State of North Carolina’s own ethics standards of conduct as counselors. When victims are confronted with people that say they are about the law and the laws no longer protect the victim, he does not think that anyone can say that was not the intent for the structures to function that way. Even on their best day, they do not conform to the basic laws and rights of those victims. Until measures are taken at all levels, things for the victims will not improve. Chairman Warner told Patricia Harris to continue to march and keep the committee updated. Patricia Harris said that they were going to start working with the UNC School of Law to start looking at the laws that we have here in the State and if they can bring any awareness.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Warner asked if there were any public comments from anyone attending the meeting. He asked the committee members if they had anything for the Executive Steering Group. Doug Taggart said

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that we should have new maps for the Active Duty and Reserves based on the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) data in the next couple of weeks. Chairman Warner said that he appreciated all of the hard work from all of the committee members. This committee could not tackle all of these issues without the effectors from everyone that attend these meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:42 pm.