



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, April 4, 2019  
Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirk Warner, Chairman  
Matthew Scott  
Patricia Harris (by phone)  
Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill (by phone)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sonny Roberts  
Julie Daniels  
Bill Hatcher

### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools  
Doug Taggart, DPI  
Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office (by phone)  
Vicki Vitiello, NC Arts Council  
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville (by phone)  
Leafa Palmer, MCAS Cherry Point  
Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs  
Siobhan Norris, UNC System  
Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg (by phone)  
Laurie Salafia, Pope Army Airfield (by phone)  
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

### **OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. He said that he was pleased with the February NCMAC meeting and the QOL committee was the feature of the meeting with wonderful presentations. The QOL is a center spoke in the work of the NCMAC. The work we do in K-12 Education, the Arts, Credits from the Universities and other topics are all very important things. We must continue to keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities for the QOL to engage in a variety of things. I thank you for all your hard work.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Warner requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 1st quarter meeting of the committee on Jan 22, 2019. Matthew Scott made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Patricia Harris and passed by unanimous vote. No discussion.

### **K-12 UPDATES/ISSUES: DOUG TAGGART AND VALERIE NASSER**

Valerie Nasser said that the military liaison officers had just met at Cherry Point. COL Ferry and Dr. Meghan Doyle had given key note addresses to the group about the issues. The Military Host County Superintendents meeting was scheduled by Jamie Livengood but then postponed by Department of Public Instruction (DPI). They have asked to wait until the new person is hired before they have this meeting. Doug Taggart said he has been informed that no coordination for this meeting needs to happen until this individual is hired. Kirk Warner asked Doug Taggart if DPI was confident that they would be hiring someone in this position? Doug Taggart said he was not sure about that. Valerie Nasser reminded the group that April is the Month of the Military Child. She gave Kelly Jackson a couple of posters. The official day for Purple Up is April 18. We will be celebrating this event for our children.

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Kirk Warner talked about the Purple Star Program and getting it up and running. He would like to have a sub-group get together and determine how we can implement this program. Valerie Nasser said that herself, Jamie Livengood and Leafa Palmer would be part of that group. She said that they had already drafted up guidelines for implementation. She thinks they have a good foundation to work with. Kirk Warner said that he would like them to form the group and get this up and running. We will call them the Purple Star Group. Valerie Nasser asked if anyone else wanted to participate? Alice Dean offered to be a part of that group. Doug Taggart said that the individual that DPI hires needs to be part of that group. Kirk Warner said that made good sense. He said that they needed to determine where this program will nest, how is it selected and who makes the cut. Is this a DPI program or is their involvement from DMVA? Valerie Nasser said that she would pick a date to meet and share that information with Kelly Jackson, so she can send that information out to everyone. Kirk Warner said that they could have a conference call or set up a meeting. Also, they need to share the information that has already been completed by Jamie Livengood and Valerie Nasser.

Doug Taggart talked about Troops to Teachers. He has had 30 hires so far this year from May -May. He is a little short of his goal, but they continue to make progress. There is a change this month on how educators can get hired. They have developed a Residency License flyer. Most of the participants get hired this way. They get 85% from lateral entry but have changed the name and changed some of the details in the law a couple of years ago and it is now being implemented. The main difference from the old way and the new way is you must have a bachelor's degree, 2.7 GPA, a regionally accredited university and 24 semester hours in a content area you want to teach or pass an exam. The other big change is having to affiliate with a state approved preparation program. It is a one-year license but can be renewed twice for a total of 2 years. His office has developed some new posters to recruit the military to become teachers. Doug Taggart talked about the Military Interstate Compact Children Commission (MIC3) meeting that was held on Monday, March 18. Chloe Gossage handed out a page flyer to the attendees that is a DPI proposal. Valerie Nasser asked if it has been updated to include Craven and Wayne Counties on the School Calendar Flexibility? Doug Taggart said that it did not look like it had been updated. Valerie Nasser said that was a big issue for them. Doug Taggart said that he would take that back to Chloe Gossage. Kirk Warner asked Doug Taggart to walk the group through this flyer. Doug Taggart said that his was the ask that went into the DPI budget request and then put into item #19 in the Governor's budget request for the year.

Doug Taggart was notified that there was a new bill introduced, Senate Bill 672 by Senator Brown and Senator Burgin for \$450,000 instead of the \$350,000 that DPI was requesting. It does not sink up exactly with the DPI request. This request "There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) in reoccurring funds to provide at least one military liaison counselor-coordinator from the Department of Public Instruction and at least one additional military liaison counselor for each of the following local school administrative units: (1) Cumberland County Schools (2) Harnett County Schools (3) Onslow County Schools." At the MIC3 meeting we talked about the Cumberland County and Onslow County Schools Military Liaisons may need to be more regional. They would be based out of DPI, serve the school system and the regional around the school system/installation. DPI plans to have further communications with Senator Brown's office on this bill that was filed. Kirk Warner reminded the group that the original budget request from DPI was for \$350,000, one state level military Liaison officer and 2 school liaisons

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counselors. So, this new bill will add one additional position. Doug Taggart said that was other things that the \$350,000 would accomplish was an operating budget and training for Guard and Reserve affected areas. Valerie Nasser said that was a concern for Dr. Doyle, Superintendent Craven County Schools with not having them assigned to a County because then they work for the Local Education Activity (LEA). So, having a regional person will help those areas that do not get served. There is more work to come on this topic. Doug Taggart said that this bill shows Senator Brown's support of this matter. Valerie Nasser said that the other issue under the 2019 proposal is the second bullet point. I know for my superintendent, when we met with the School Liaison Officers, we talked about texting Mark Johnson that all the installations need to be included in the Calendar flexibility because it goes back to the discussion about credits and school start and stop times. That topic should not be limited to Cumberland, Onslow, Harnett, and Hoke Counties for Calendar flexibility. It should be reviewed to ensure that they have all the counties that are affected. Kirk Warner asked Doug Taggart what the plan is for the flyer? Doug Taggart said it was given to the MIC3 to let them know the direction that DPI was going. Doug Taggart will work with Chole Gossage to see about changes need to be made on the flyer.

Doug Taggart said that there was a meeting in February held at DPI with the primary players and Keith Martin from Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). MCEC advocates for funding to train staff across the state on military connected children issues. They are a few states that have committed state funds to support this type of training. They conduct the training for school staff members, parents and children. We have had some of this training and more of this training will be happening soon. Laurie Salafia said that they had training "Living in the New Norm" which is about military children and how to work with military children. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> training event that she has hosted. Doug Taggart said that this training is being funded by the Air Force. There were federal funds that paid for this training in prior years especially for the Guard and Reserves. The problem for NC is that we don't have funding for the training currently. The thought is that we need to get this \$350,000 budget proposal moving forward and then move towards funding for training. Valerie Nasser said that MCEC also does the peer mentoring programs at the high school level and Junior 2 Student 2 Student (JS2S) for the middle school level. These programs are funded but the funding is spotted. This training can be a valuable as the staff training provided by MCEC. Doug Taggart said that the ask from DPI has \$48,000 for Local Education Agency (LEA) grant training which would be used for the impacted school systems. The Student 2 Student (S2S) program costs \$15,000 to implement for one school. The State level person would determine what LEA would receive funding for training from that \$48,000. Valeria Nasser said that Jamie Livengood was contacted about Federal Perkins funding and that funding is normally used for career technical but now the military is considered a special population and considered under this grant. We will be receiving some funding from the Perkins Foundation. They have asked Jamie Livengood, Brittany Norman and Valeri Nasser to present at their summer conference. Valerie Nasser also met the Director of Student Services for Wake County for Elementary and their may be some opportunity for training there. Doug Taggart said that the outcome from the meeting with MCEC was that Dr. Grimesey, Superintendent Moore County Schools was going to socialize this flyer with the Superintendents, to get more support for it. He is a Superintendent and works in that world.

Kirk Warner asked if there was a Superintendents meeting scheduled for this year and an opportunity to get on their agenda? Valerie Nasser said that Dr. Doyle is the on the MIC3 and she is reaching out to her

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fellow Superintendents about these issues. Kirk Warner said that we need to have these issues talked about at these meetings and Dr. Doyle is a great advocate for that.

Doug Taggart talked about the MIC3 meeting. He talked about the parent of a military child that talked about a problem that her son had in the Cumberland County school system and how they tried to resolve the issue. This was not a good story and that we failed this child and family at many levels. The good outcome was the military transcript and credit working group. We have had an initial conversation about this topic. We have deliverables for this topic. There will be a Power School change, so the course waivers are easier to handle within Power School for the Compact. There were other items that we had not thought about until the conversation that we will be working on reference how waivers can affect a transcript.

**SENATE BILL (SB) 761 UPDATE: KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Warner talked about SB 761. Susan Barbitta gave a presentation to the QOL and NCMAC on this topic. Kirk Warner updated the group at the February meeting after talking to Susan Barbitta. He has talked to Susan again and they have a meeting on April 9-10 for the Military Credit Advisory Council (MCAC). This Council is made up of members from the UNC System and the Community College System to evaluate training that is conducted in the military, military training and practical experience. They evaluate this to see if they can receive course credits for both the UNC and Community systems. Senate Bill (SB)761 requires that this effort is out of hide to make that happen. The Council has been meeting once a year and goes through about 20 different areas that they are looking at. They started with the low hanging fruit such as Nursing/Medical that will convert into college credits. They have been working down through a variety of areas and then get their homework. They are making good progress, but we would like to see more progress if possible. We have been trying to get clarity on this program. The Community College was trying to get an additional person to be the liaison and part time for the community colleges. The Community colleges are more in sink as they are more centralized as to their courses. The 16 Universities are not centralized. The Community College was not able to put that position into their budget, but the University did put a request of \$200,000 into their budget for software and \$150,000 non-recurring for the Advisory Committee. There will be some questions about these items and what is the cost for the MCAC. Kirk Warner is anticipating pushback from this request from the Legislators that he has talked to. This is an important topic for the NCMAC and some of our legislators that are on the NCMAC. Doug Taggart said that on the April 9-10 meeting, the military review panels will meet next-week and he will be attending that meeting. Siobhan Norris said that MCAC would like to convene more than once a year and that is due to funding issues. It takes approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000 for the MCAC to meet. We work on about 40 Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). A large amount of the funding requested, in SB 761 it requires us to have a streamlined consistent process for awarding credits. We have 6 IT personnel working on this database that will be amazing. The database will be rolled out to our Registrar, they will receive training and see this from the backend. Then we will push it out publicly so a service member or a veteran can see what type of credit they can get at any university. This system will be very user friendly. There will be a reduction in issues that we were seeing with each individual Registrar trying to evaluate if someone got a credit or not. We are very excited about this database but there is a cost for the database. Kirk Warner said that the funding information needs to be clarify and explained so there is no confusion.

**DOROTHEA DIX CARE UNIT UPDATE: KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner said that not much had changed. They are still targeting their opening for June 2020 for the Adolescents Care unit at the Betsy Johnson Hospital. They are still short \$1 million but still have the funding from the State of \$4 million.

**UNC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM: SIOBHAN NORRIS**

Siobhan Norris gave a presentation for the UNC University System. Siobhan Norris is an Army Veteran and so is her husband.

**UNC Military & Veterans Affairs:**

Who are Military-Affiliated students?

- Active Duty
- National Guard and Reserves
- Veteran
- Spouse of current/former service member

Priorities for Success

- Enroll
- Educate
- Graduate
- Employ

UNC System Military Affairs Surveys

- Two baseline surveys conducted in fall 2018
  - 1) Data on UNC System military-affiliated students
    - Identifying & tracking academic progress
  - 2) Resources for UNC System military-affiliated students
    - Student support services
    - Admissions
    - Financial Aid
    - Credit Transfer
    - Academic support services
    - Outreach and marketing

Enrollments: Military-Affiliated Students

- ASU 1,264 children
- NCSU: 1,232 children, 15 spouses
- UNCW: 873 children, 349 spouses
- ECU: 428 children, 229 spouses

Top 10 Degree Programs for Military-Affiliated Students

- Business Management, Marketing, and Support Service

- Health Profession and Related Programs
- Education
- Liberal Arts, and Science, General Studies and Humanities
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Engineering
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services
- Park, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies

**Reducing Barriers for Military Students:**

Academic Pathways

- 7 UNC universities have degree programs designed for military-affiliated students.
  - BA Intelligence Studies (FSU), PhD Leadership Studies (NCACT), Physician’s Assistant (UNCCH), BS Nursing – Veterans Access Program (UNCG), MA Conflict Management (UNCW)
- Some offer fully online programs geared toward military audiences
  - BS Communications Studies (ASU), BS Leadership in the Public Sector (NCSU), BS Emergency Medical Care (WCU)
- 12 universities have accelerated programs built around **7-8-week courses**.
  - MA Conflict Management Resolution (UNCW), BS Integrated Professional Studies (UNCG)

Community College Partnerships

- FSU: Joint program with FTCC in Intelligence Studies with Civil Affairs track
- UNCP: Army special operations soldiers can transfer up to 60 credit hours from community colleges toward certain UNCP degrees
- UNCW: Students can transfer from Coast Carolina Community College to UNCW @ Onslow Extension Sites at CCCC< Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River

**Military Student Support Resources:**

Best Practices for Military Students Support

- Veterans Resource Center 13
- Military Affairs Committee 10
- Military Admissions & Student Affairs Staff 10

Support Services:

- 14 UNC Universities have a district orientation session focused on military-affiliated students
- 13 Support Staff trained in military related mental health issues (Combat-related PRS, TBI, MST)
- All host special military events or ceremonies

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- 11 Provide Green Zone or other military cultural awareness training for faculty, staff & students, 3 more to offer training in 2019

Post-Secondary Success:

UNC System Best Practices

- 4 UNC universities have career center staff designated to assist military-affiliated students
- FSU partners with the VA Employment office to assist veterans with resume review and job placement
- UNCG has a staff member in the Alumni Affairs office who coordinates with the office of military-affiliated services to connect current students with military-affiliated alumni
- UNCW established the nation's first university based Military Spouse Professional Network in collaboration with the US Chamber of Commerce.

UNC System office support

- BOG Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs
- UNC Military Affairs Working Group
- UNC Student Veteran Association
- Military Credit Advisory Council
  - Standardized credit transfer process
- Staff Professional Development Training June 7<sup>th</sup> @ NC State
  - Military Cultural Competency
  - Credit Articulation & JST evaluation
  - Academic Advising

Kirk Warner said that he would like for Siobhan Norris to brief at the next NCMAC meeting. Matthew Scott said that this is a great topic for that meeting. We need to expand the definition of military. This deals with Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) and recruitment. Doug Taggart had a question about slide 8 and priority registration. Priority registration is given to athletes, honors, graduate students, and a few other groups. They get to enroll in classes before the general population. Half of our Universities give military priority registration. This can help them graduate on time and re-enter the work force timely.

**NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH AND CHILD PROGRAMS: ALICE DEAN**

Alice Dean introduced herself to the committee. She is the lead youth and child coordinator for the National Guard (NG). She has been in this position for the past 14 years. Her husband was a member of the NC National Guard for over 40 years and now retired. I have been involved with the military for over 35 years and the children are very close to my heart. We have National Guard (NG) children in over 100 counties. We have a lot of ground to cover and a small staff. We conduct event throughout the state and open them up to any military child that would like to attend. I appreciate the invitation to attend this meeting. Kirk Warner asked if Alice Dean was tied in with DPI. Alice Dean said that she worked closely with DPI and the military liaison officers. Kirk Warner asked what their focus has been. Alice Dean said that the focus has been on resiliency of our NG children to face any challenge that they

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encounter. Currently we are going into a high tempo due to the deployment of approximately 3000 soldiers. We are working with the families and trying to prepare the children for this deployment. We also work with the service members communities during the deployment. We do get a lot of issues about guardianship. The children are being left with a friend or grandparent. We work with issues on mental health with our children for various reasons. Kirk Warner asked who they work with on the mental health issues. Alice Dean said that the NG Bureau has ensured that all the child and youth personnel are trained in the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program and MRT certified to do resiliency training. Kelly Jackson said that Alice Dean has done a great job as the lead for the NC NG Youth and Child Program coordinator.

**LEGISLATION: KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner talked about the bills that have been filed in the current legislative session.

Senate Bill 230: Excused Absences for Military Children (This is already in the MIC3).

House Bill 340: Amend Appt For Compact on Education/Military

Senate Bill 672: Military Liaison Counselors/Funds

**NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL: VICKI VITELLO**

Kirk Warner told Vicki Vitello that she gave a great presentation at the last NCMAC meeting. Did she have any update for this meeting? Vicki Vitello said that in the last 3 years she has been setting up military and veteran arts programs for the State. We have recurring funds from the General Assembly for this. She updated us on what is going on for the military around the state. We had a meeting with all 4 Veterans Administrations (VA) and their Whole Health team members. The big VA is going on a cultural change on how they provide health care. The VA is needing to partner with other agencies. We have determined that the recreational therapists and the arts therapists at the VA can turn to the Cultural sector to work with to improve the quality of life. The big VA is paying a lot of attention to Arts partnerships in NC. Another program is the NC Arts Council and the USO have been great partners in many ways. The USO is opening a new facility in Goldsboro. The old officers club is being given to the USO and they are looking to the Wayne County Arts Council to assist with this project. This effort will affect service members, families and children. Kirk Warner said that this type of project could be adopted by all the services. Vicki Vitello said that is correct because we have local Arts Councils and assets everywhere. The third example is that the DMVA is having a Military Spouse Appreciation Day and will be hosting it at the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) in Downtown Raleigh on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Doug Taggart said that DMVA was hosting an event for the Military Child on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the History Museum. Kelly Jackson said that the NCMAC members that represent Cumberland County and Onslow County have been invited to this event. We are starting small and hope to increase the number of attendees each year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Shellee Godwin commented on a military ball that was being hosted in Fayetteville. Moore County is having hosting an event at a local park.

Kevin Burch talked about the following filed bills:

House Bill 297: Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)



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Senate Bill 219: Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements  
House Bill 523: NC Servicemembers Civil Relief Act  
Senate Bill 420: NC Service members Civil Relief Act  
House Bill 274: Child Abuse & Neglect/Military Affiliation

Kirk Warner said that there was a Reserve Component Commander's Council (RCCC) on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Kirk Warner said that he would be working on the following items.  
Military Spouse employment working group liaison  
Purple Star working group  
Contact Dan Dunham from Virginia (Valerie Nasser will do this)  
Push the budget issues for DPI \$350,000 vs \$450,000 (Senators Brown and Burgin)

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

- UNC System presentation – 15 minutes
- Dan Dunham from VA – 15 minutes

**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:**

No Legislative initiatives currently.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Warner asked for a motion to adjourn. Matthew Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Patricia Harris and passed by unanimous vote. No discussion all do. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.