



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 3rd Quarter, July 16, 2020
Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487 Conference ID: 101 757 22#

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NCMAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Edward Reeder

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs
 Mark Patton, Cumberland County Schools
 Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office
 Howard Lattimore, Fort Bragg Schools
 Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools
 Cristy Barnes-Williams, Seymour Johnson AFB
 Julie Fulton, MCI-East School Liaison
 Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools
 Brittany Norman, Onslow County Schools
 Donna Grady, Camp Lejeune
 Leafe Palmer, MCAS Cherry Point School Liaison
 Bryan Ayers, Camp Lejeune/NCCC
 Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
 Doug Taggart, DPI
 Shadia Young, Fort Bragg ACS
 Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg School Support Svcs
 Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg School Support Svcs
 Paul Berry, DMVA
 Kelly Jackson, DMVA

OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:02 and welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. There were 5 of the 6 members in attendance for a quorum. He said that we had a good agenda and Patricia Harris would be giving the committee a presentation about Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) and what is happening with the Fort Hood incident. We also have House Bill 1067 that could be overcome by events. We need to keep that on our radar screen. We will talk about the Purple Star awards. We will get updates from our School Liaison officers and the Department of Public Instruction. A big topic is the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders and delays in those moves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner said that the committee had a quorum and would approve the 2nd Quarter draft Quality of Life minutes from April 23, 2020. Gerald Rudisill Jr made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by William Hatcher and passed by unanimous vote.

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

Valerie Nasser gave a couple updates. She informed the committee that the Purple Star Banners were all distributed by the Department of Administration and School Liaison Officers throughout the Eastern part of the State. She is not sure what the school report cards look like at this time in light of how school ended last year. She and Jamie Livengood just got done presenting at the Career and Technical Educational Conference for NC. The National Perkins Five Act is what funds career and technical Education across the country. Our active duty connected youth were made a special population under that act last year. There is some funding set aside for states to recruit and serve our military students. She feels like with the presentations that they made, we are working to get more visibility and pushing services down to the student level through the career and technical education department. She said that reference the delayed enrollment, maybe Rollie Sampson or Julie Fulton may have more information on that. In Craven County, she and Leafa Palmer are conducting a weekly campus check with any new family that registers remotely. The remote enrollment is going well in Craven county. They are able to reach out to those families and help them with any needs that they have as they arrive. They will probably get together early next year as a group and plan for the year. She knows that plan will include creating uniform professional development for NC specific.

Gerald Rudisill asked how many Purple Star banners were given out? Valerie Nasser said that there were approximately 150 schools and all of the schools should have received a banner. Chairman Kirk Warner said that he listened to the awards ceremony presentation and they read off all of the names of the schools that received the award. It was a nice event and was nice to see all of these schools from across the state receive this award. It was a cross between all of the grades, Elementary, Middle and High Schools. We give a pat on the back to the Purple Star committee from the QOL committee. That is what drove the train. We appreciate that DPI took this ball and ran with it. This was a great team effort and shows you what we can do. He is encouraged by the remote registration contact and thinks that is a great thing. Chairman Kirk Warner asked Valerie Nasser if they remote register, you can see that somehow and you have visibility on that and then you contact them? How does this work? Valerie said that in the past you could not register until you know where you were going to live. Now they are getting remote enrollment with orders. She can see this information in a separate window in PowerSchool. Her district purchased that add-on in PowerSchool. She thought that Cumberland County had also purchased that add-on. She is not sure if Onslow County purchased that add-on yet. She and Leafa Palmer are hosting a zoom chat event to welcome the families to Craven County schools where the military families can ask questions and she can hook the families up with a counselor so they can take a virtual tour of a school. This gives the military family some personal attention. Valerie Nasser said that another interesting thing for our military families is that every district will have a different plan going into the Fall that their board of education votes on. So, nothing applies to all of our families. Craven County will be voting on their plan this evening.

Rollie Sampson said that she wanted to talk about some of the issues that will happen for inbound families which will be based on the stop movement order. Now that they are all able to move, they are still delayed because the transportation companies cannot move them all at once. Since we are allowed to enroll them, we start the process, there is some resistance to complete the actual enrollment. The physical documents that makes them our student. One of the things that she is going to ask in her district is for inbound families that will be here for that August 17th date, that is a pushup date from the

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Legislature, can we go ahead and start things remotely. We know they are coming and have PCS orders. The way the law reads she should be able to enroll them based solely on PCS orders and then not physically being here. She thinks she should be able to allow that student to start school while they are transitioning. She has in inbound family from Kansas and Kansas has pushed off school until the end of September or October. If she does not enroll that student while they are transitioning, that student will not be in school at all during the Fall until they arrive here. Chairman Warner asked if the paperwork is such that it can be remotely exchanged? Rollie Sampson said that like a lot of school districts are doing, she has been tracking what is happening around Fort Bragg. All of them seem to be offering some form of giving parents a choice to be totally virtual and you will be totally virtual for the entire semester. You can have the option to start off with the Governor's plan and then make changes as things change. They have 2 options. So, for her there is nothing to prevent them from having a student start on-line. She went back to the law and it reads about the same. For school districts this is a win in a sense that student enrollment and possible funding from the Legislature based on teachers. If we do not have students enroll by day 20 and they all start showing up in September and October, we may not have the staffing to handle the inbound families like we did when they arrived during the Summertime. We need to ensure that if they are interested in enrolling before they are physically present, the PCS orders would do it. Chairman Warner said that maybe a hybrid would be possible. That they could start online and then convert when they physical get to NC. Rollie Sampson said that since each district will be different, it would have to be a district decision. We would need to find a way for this to work on a case by case basis. She has been pushing to get the students enrolled whether they are physically in NC or not. That is why we did the remote enrollment so that student did not lose ground by not being in NC.

Doug Taggart said that maybe some of the people on this committee need to meet separate and then contact the State Board of Education legal team and have a discussion on this topic. This is a topic that needs to be brought up right away. The downside is that this is locally controlled, and they can decide how this works. Rollie Sampson said that she looked at the Interstate Compact and legislation that governs that as well as the General Statutes that govern enrollment. There is a little blip in there about the military that specifically says that we can enroll without them physically being present. What does that actually mean? To her, it opens the door for this. Doug Taggart said that they need to do a separate conference call and see if he can get a couple of the State Board members involved. Chairman Warner said that we will need to be flexible. Doug Taggart will add Jamie Livengood and Howard Lattimore to the conference call.

Mark Patton said that there is a movement starting. He has the latest update from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). He is working with approximately 12 families from other states and overseas that have been stopped. That question has been asked about virtual education and being able to enroll locally pending orders. There has to be something legal that needs to be looked at. We are still a no on the Department of Defense travel restriction. No bands are listed. He was online with a family yesterday and they got their orders pushed from August to November. So, if we are allowing them to move into Cumberland County, we are at a hold. Do we let them register and not be present? Does Cumberland County have that add-on in PowerSchool? That would be a huge help. Are we restricted or not? He is looking at the update and he says no they are not restricted. Chairman Kirk Warner said that the flip side to this, is that you may have people you can't move and want to stay in the school system they are currently in, if they can't leave until November and stay an extra month and finish up

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that semester. So, there is a flip side issue to the situation for the outgoing. Doug Taggart said that we need to have this conference call and frame the question appropriately for the State Board of Education. Then we will do a follow-up call for those who want to be part of the Board meeting itself for the Board

Attorneys. We need the initial meeting to frame out the questions everyone has. Chairman Warner asked Doug Taggart to get this group together to frame out the questions that need answers and coordinate with the Board attorneys. We also need to be thinking about the 2nd and 3rd order affects from this situation. Rollie Sampson said that another affect is going to be the childcare issue. We are seeing that here. When both parents work full-time what do they do for childcare. So, when the parents are dual military service members, what do they do about the childcare issue which has become a huge issue if the children are not in school full-time. Doug Taggart said that this is an issue for all families in NC, not just the military families. Chairman Warner said that he does not have the answer for that issue because they cannot just put together a giant day care and the kids just show up. That would defeat the purpose of not having school. We need to keep our ears and eyes open on this topic.

Kelly Jackson said that if anyone wanted to be part of the working group with Doug Taggart to email him so he can include you as part of the group. There is information about all of the Purple Star awardees on the DPI website and she will share that information with the committee members. Doug Taggart said that the Purple Star emblem/logo had been put on all of the awardees Report Cards as of June 30, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS (DPI) SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES: DOUG TAGGART
Doug Taggart said that Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has not meet and he was having a hard time getting a meeting scheduled. The Commission Chairman Alex Irwin has resigned, and he has been unable to get up with Donnie Loftus to ask about his efforts to get a new Chairman appointed. He has been trying to schedule a meeting for September, but some of the Commission members have not responded to his emails. It has been a challenge to coordinate an upcoming meeting.

There will be a memo that will be going out to the school systems about the Military School Identifier next month. It will be a reminder about those requirements. There is no update on the Military Liaison Officer (MLO) Coordinator position and the state budget. It all depends on whether the budget passes and that provision is in the budget from last year.

They are beginning their third year for the Troops to Teachers grant. There have been 30 + hires this past year and a bit lower than his goal of 40 hires. The outreach has been a bit of a challenge since some of the briefings that they would have attended have been cancelled. They are shifting to remote webinars starting next week.

The remote learning has been a huge shift for this year. Chairman Warner asked if all of this has affected the accreditation of incoming military spouses at all? Doug Taggart said that in terms of licensing he does not think so but he can tell us that there was a meeting a couple of weeks ago to discuss the actual process that is going to work for military spouses and the priority of their license. They are looking to modify that process. They did not make much progress on terms of getting the license exceptions to change the language on their website to indicate that, but the policy exists and

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promotes that on the website. There was also a bill that passed that waives the requirement fees for military and military spouses for all licensing offices in the state. The big impact there is that the licensing office in NC is revenue driven and the licensing fees pays the salaries of the licensure specialist. The numbers may not be a lot, but it will be a small impact to that section in terms of that funding. Chairman Warner asked Doug Taggart if he know how many license that would be? Doug Taggart said that he had no data for that, but his guess would be about 300-400 statewide. He will not know until they start tracking this if they are military connected. This is a challenge because there is no data at this time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Kelly Jackson said that the NC Military Affairs Commission has received funding from the General Assembly in Senate Bill 801. An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Military Presence Stabilization Fund: Section 1: By August 15, 2020, the Department of Commerce shall transfer the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds from the cash balance in the Film and Entertainment Grant Fund (Budget Code: 24609; Fund Code: 2590) to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Budget Code: 13050; Fund Code: 1400) for deposit in the Military Presence Stabilization Fund established in G.S. 143B-1217. The funds transferred in this act are appropriated for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and shall be used to sustain and maintain the State's military installations, updates to strategic planning, federal advocacy, and identification of measures to increase the military value of installations. This is the operating budget for the NC Military Affairs Commission for the next 2 years.

Chairman Warner talked about House Bill 1067. He is concerned about this bill not getting passed but should be an easy pass in the next term. House Bill 1067 Modernized Debt Settlement Prohibition. This issue has floated up by the Garrison Commanders and Bases. There are debt adjusters and settlement folks out there that are out there somewhat rogue and praying on our service members. They are takings fees to adjust and settle debts that are absorbent. The legislation is to prohibit debt adjustors other than lawyers and those that are accredited by a bank or from the creditor itself. That is a different issue. That is the consumer issues that we are trying to prevent. He said that Bryan Ayers has forwarded from Camp Lejeune, and now other Garrison Commanders have submitted endorsement trying to support the passage of HB 1067. It was unanimous in the House and in the Senate. Then it got bottled up with lobbyists and the industry. Then it did not get a vote before they left for the term. He has forwarded this on to the Legislative Committee and Senator Brown. It has surfaced and we will continue to work on this topic. Stay tuned for more developments. Bryan Ayers said that it was brought to his attention by their legal counsel at Camp Lejeune (Mike Archer). They have penned other letters on topics of predatory lending (SB 704/HB 1043). He said that they do not advocate or oppose any of these topics because they cannot lobby but we state the facts if they have an impact on their service members. We state what the impact will be. For House Bill 1067, we penned a letter and due to the short fuse, we did in on behalf of the Marine Corps. We were not able to vet it through the NC Commander's Council due to the short timeline with the legislator getting ready to adjourn their session. We wanted to have something on paper and submitted. We submitted our letter on behalf of Cherry Point, New River and Camp Lejeune. We stated that the service members in uniform would be negatively impacted with the failure of the passage of this bill. It would continue to allow debt consolidation practices to continue to do what their standard operating procedures were. He found out yesterday that Fort Bragg has sent a letter with the signature from their standing Commanding Officer,

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Justin Mitchell. This will be a topic during the NC Commander's Council on August 18, 2020. We will determine at that time if individual installation letters will be appropriate or an overarching letter from the NC Commander's Council will be more appropriate.

Kevin Bruch asked about the bill Senate Bill 706 and House Bill 1047, Educational Changes for Military Connected Students. He has checked with Sally-Ann Gupta and he has not gotten anything back from her yet. She was going to reach out to Rep Cleveland. Senate Bill 706 had passed the Senate and it was in the House and they stripped the bill and put new language in it that no way addressed the end state of the original bill. House Bill 1047 is still out there and has not left the House committee. Chairman Warner will also check with Chairmen Martin about why the important stuff was stripped out of the bill. Bryan Ayers said that from his perspective, there were 3 topics in the bill. The first was NC tuition for dependents, the second was about homeschoolers, and the third was school attendance in a local school administrative unit for children of active duty military due to military orders of the parent. There was language in the bill about homeschoolers that if you didn't check a box within 2 years a particular point of contact would reach out to you to determine if you were still homeschooling a student or they would say that the homeschool is no longer a valid educational institution. Certain folks thought this was a do not tread on me issue. They decided not to continue the issues of tracking those homeschool students. That portion got stripped out of the bill, but the other 2 elements remained in the bill. Those 2 items were the most important parts of the bill. Chairman Warner said we need to keep track of this bill.

STRATEGIC PLAN: KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner talked about the Strategic Plan. He said that we were not contracting out the strategic plan. We are taking the information that we developed during a strategic plan workshop. He asked the committee members to review the goals and implementation items. If they have any other comments or recommended changes, to send them to Chairman Warner. Rudy Rudisill asked that the entire strategic plan be sent to the NC National Guard for their review. Chairman Warner said that was a good idea and asked Kelly Jackson to share the plan with LTC David Baker. Doug Taggart said that he was reviewing the 9 implementation recommendations. The second implementation recommendation which read, Support and leverage remote early/distant school registration to address delayed or phase. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) transition during 2020. Is there any interest in the idea of advocating to get some funding to provide that module for PowerSchool to the most military impacted? Chairman Warner asked Doug to send him a phase on that to add to the implementation list. Doug Taggart said that he did not know the cost of this, but we are requiring remote enrollment, but we do not give them the funding to support this on the state side. Chairman Warner said that we could write that in to explore funding issues. Doug Taggart said he would send Chairman Warner something on that.

Chairman Warner said that the Executive Steering Group would be meeting on August 4, 2020 from 10am – 12pm via Microsoft Teams and the NC Military Affairs meeting would be on August 18, 2020 from 12:30 -4:30 pm via Microsoft Teams following the NC Commander's Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

SHARP PRESENTATION: PATRICIA HARRIS:

Women Veterans Support Services, Inc.

Presents Violence Within Our Ranks. A call to Action. Awareness of Sexual Violence in the Military.

Before we get started:

- Warning: information obtained here may be disturbing.
- Go to <https://www.nsopw.gov/> go to the search field enter your address which maybe shocking to learn how many offenders and predators' lives within 3 miles of your homes.

It is in the media: Fort Hood, TX soldier missing:

- Specialist Vanessa Gillen, went missing from Fort Hood in April, hundreds of people searched for her across a swath of central Texas and her disappearance drew national attention.
- Her remains were found and identified over two months later, and the authorities accused another soldier of killing her and charged a woman with playing a role in her disappearance.
- A call for changes in how the military handles reports of sexual harassment and assault, disappearances.

It is a Soldier on Soldier Crime:

- US Army Specialist Aaron Robinson, 20. A few days before the charge was announced, Specialist Robinson committed suicide.
- The authorities also arrested Specialist Robinson's girlfriend, Cecily Aguilar, in Killen, TX. Specialist Robinson told Ms. Aguilar that he repeatedly struck Specialist Guillen on the head with a hammer, killing her and hid her body in a large box. The couple then tried to dismember and burn the remains, according to the complaint.

Sexual Harassment: What we Know: Recent statistics: Part 1

- At least 25% of women serving in the United States military have been sexually assaulted, and up to 80% have been sexually harassed. A 2011 report found that women in the United States military were more likely to be raped by fellow soldiers than they were to be killed in combat.
- Sexual assault in the United States armed forces is an ongoing issue which has received extensive media coverage.

Statistics on Military Sexual Assault (MST): Part 2

- Sexual violence remains pervasive. In 2018, 20,500 service members were sexually assaulted or raped including 13,000 women and 7,500 men.
- Of women who reported a penetrative sexual assault, 59% were assaulted by someone with a higher rank than them and 24% were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.
- Vast majority of cases go unreported. 76.1% of victims did not report the crime in 2018.
- Retaliation is the norm. 64% of women who reported a sexual assault face retaliation. 66% of retaliation reports alleged that retaliators were in the reporter's chain of command.

Statistics on Military Sexual Assault (MST): Part 3

- Low trust and satisfaction in the system. Over 1 in 4 victims who did not report feared retaliation from their command or coworkers. Nearly 1 in 3 victims who did not report feared the process would be unfair or nothing would be done.
- Convictions have plummeted by almost 60% in unrestricted sexual assaults reported since 2015. In 2018, of the 5,805 unrestricted reports of sexual assault, 307 cases were tried by court-martial, and 108 offenders were convicted of a non-consensual sex offense.
- 40% of homeless women veterans have faced Military Sexual Assault (MST). 9 out of every 10 victims of rape are female veterans.

Facts on Military Sexual Assault: The effects of Readiness

- High demand for VA health care. 1,307,781 outpatient visits took place at the VA for MST-related care in 2015.
- The likelihood that a person's mental health suffers, and experience suicidal or depressive thoughts increases after sexual violence. Posttraumatic stress disorder can be common along with other mental health conditions.
- People who have been sexually assaulted are more at risk for substance use and substance abuse than the general public
- Sexual violence and the following psychological trauma also affect victims' relationships with their family members, friends, and co-workers.
- Victims are at risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- Reference source: Facts on Military Sexual Trauma and Statistics: Hill & Ponton, P.A.

How can We Help?

The Wrap Up: Points:

- Command Readiness is very important especially in North Carolina.
- North Carolina is 6th in the nation for women veterans (over 87,000) and over 656,044 in the veteran population.
- 112,951 serve on active duty in the state.
- Military sexual assaults jumped by 37% an anonymous survey shows. The results are even higher than the Pentagon's release on reported assaults.
- Sexual violence not only affects our servicewomen, but it also affects our servicemen and our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) population serving in the military community.
- When service members can not feel safe doing their duties it affects military command readiness and quality of life.

Points:

- In May 2020, Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault prevention and Response Office released for FY 2019 with a 3% in reports of sexual reports.

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- Vanessa Guillen's case is the military's #METOO movement. There is humbling support across the nation and communities along with aggressive and necessary efforts of military women service organizations to demand justice for SPC Vanessa Guillen.
- Sources Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) and Women Veterans Support Services-NC (WVSS-NC) Statements.

Actions to Consider:

- There are not any civilian policies to ensure this person is registered. Those who are sex offenders and predators in the United States Armed Forces uniforms that do not receive any punishment for crimes goes into our communities, schools, workplaces and do the same thing repeatedly. They believe that they are untouchable because Military Leaders fail to do their jobs to PUNISH them under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) actions for crimes committed.
- Military Installation Commanders can enforce this now. US Armed Forces leaders, community organizations, and elected officials, both state and federal will need to start the dialogue NOW. Discuss on how to end all crimes committed to include human trafficking against children, women, men LGBTQ and the elderly by enforcing a TRUE 0% tolerances.
- To bring awareness and act. This will require everyday be a mandatory sexual harassment and prevention day. Also having a real open-door policy for those who are victims to feel comfortable in telling what happened without any fear of reprisal.

Connect with Us:

- Join the discussion.
- Southern Crescent Veterans Services, Inc. "TalkTooMe" a discussion group by texting your name, your email address, along with the words "Sexual Assault" .
- (678) 210-1911. Include a picture of PSC Vanessa Guillen (RIHP)

Presenter: Patricia Harris, MST/DV survivor, Founder & Executive Director, WVSS, Inc

Comments: Chairman Warner said that the issue is what do with this and how do we move this forward? What can the NC Military Affairs Commission do about this? This is going to be a huge topic of discussion for all of the Garrison Commanders and Bases that are going through this and the Services that are going through this. The event at Fort Hood is going to raise that issue and they will have to sharpen the SHARP if nothing else. What do you think that the NC Military Affairs Commission can do that we are all doing what needs to be done? He said that he knows this is at the top Nationally and a relook at where we are and how we can ease the reporting processes. Patricia Harris said that she thinks that we should be in support of or find out where they stand on everything? The one things that she does know from the 7 counties in the outreach her non-profit operates in which are Wake, Durham, Guilford, Wayne, Onslow, Craven and Cumberland Counties. They have a lot of active duty service members that are living outside of the gates and they are talking about this. Her group has talked to about 48 women since we have been in the shelter in place mandate. We do know that some of them do not trust the system. We need to afford them the tools to help support them. This is a matter of readiness. The military needs to have as much support as needed, whatever that is or what that looks

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like. We may need to have a conversation with some of the SHARP staff to see what they need. Chairman Warner said that we may need to put this on the agenda for the NC Commander's Council to see how the reporting processes work. He said that he knew that they were doing heightened SHARP in the last few years. He likes the idea of the Garrison Commander saying how they communicate with folks off post. How do we ensure that our service members know that that is a safe spot to make a report off post if they are not comfortable on post? This is a communications issue and the security in reporting and encouraging of reporting.

From the Quality of Life perspective, we should push for the Commander's Council to address this and look outside the wire. How can we address the communication links to see if they are there to do something about this?

Kelly Jackson said that Paul Berry informed her that the Secretary of Defense has directed all Service Secretaries conduct a total review of their Command culture and reporting programs. This is due back by August 15, 2020. Another comment is that having a rapport with agencies outside of the installation is key and establishing those Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). Giving the victims a civilian resource helps to provide confidence to the victims because the main issue is a lot of confidence in the leadership and confidentiality. Kelly Jackson said that she had a copy of the memo that was mention by Paul Berry. Chairman Warner said that we need to have this as an agenda item, the NC Commander's Council and wherever we can. This is also important for the NC National Guard.

Ron Massey said that he was in Jacksonville when they had the Lance Corporal case. The local police and the military police worked very closely together to investigate and resolve that case. From his perspective, it is very important that local police and the example that child that went to a teacher for help. That points out that it is a report to a civilian authority and then that information should be passed to the local authority. This is some of the checks and balances that the host communities are very critical in providing what he considers an alternate act. When they are not successful within their chain of command. He speaks as a retired military who was involved in installation management and now as a Deputy City Manager for the City of Jacksonville. He sees the checks and balances that they provide for one another. They had an incident where a Marine killed his wife and it happened off base. What they realized from that is that there were previous reports of domestic violence and what they have now done is that they have created an agreement with the base that when they have domestic violence in their community off base, and it involves a military service member, they report it to the base and they separate the family by bringing the military service member back on base and put them in government quarters. This is where we all work together, and the NC Military Affairs Commission could facilitate with our host partners because the host majors are Ex-Officio members of the NC Military Affairs Commission. There are ways to ensure that we are paying attention to this as a community. Chairman Warner asked if they had an MOU with Camp Lejeune? Ron Massey said yes and that he could share it with this committee. Chairman Warner said that that was an example of information sharing that is vital to address these things.

Patricia Harris said that she had MOU's with the seven county shelters that she was working with also. She has the MOUs because they need to share information and are partners. Chairman Warner asked if

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the MOUs were with the Commands too? Patricia said that they were only with the Shelters because it was hard to get a MOU with the Commands, but you are able to talk to their Public Affairs officers.

Chairman Warner said it would be good to have this on the NC Commander's Council agenda and the NC Military Affairs Commission agenda. Rollie Sampson said that they run into issues within the school districts. When they are doing Department of Social Services (DSS) reports and they have concerns about abuse with a military service member, those reports are not getting from DSS to the installations. So, even if we have an agreement with DSS that they are going to report this issues to the installation, the loop does not seem to be closed like they should be. This is a huge thing that if the family advocacy program is not tracking that they have had a DSS report or the family has a history of issues and they move to a new installation, and this continues to happen, there is no history and the abuse continues. So, now in her school system when they do a DSS report, they do a report directly to the installation to let them know that DSS has a report. She hopes that will help to close the loop. Then the installation can reach back to DSS for that report. This impacts everything when we talk about abuse and the disconnect between the installations and the communities that surround them. An MOU is good but sometimes things need to be more formalized.

Shadia Young said that she agrees with what was just said. She has just transitioned to a new position but had been a child advocate. The Department of Social Services already has a shortage of staff and is over worked with their case load. It is important to close that communication gap. What is done on the installation from within is they contact family advocacy directly and report that information. When something has occurred off of the installation they are not mandated to report to the family advocacy so part of the their outreach efforts is to go out to agencies outside and to schools and give them information on what they do and try to establish a relationship so if and when there are cases of abuse outside, they can contact the family advocacy program and help to eliminate the gap in the communication.

Chairman Warner said that it sounds like we have a lot of information and ideas and how we can roll this into a package for discussion and how we drive the discussion will be a challenge. He wants to think about this and then get a point person to share the ideas and maybe even present to the Commander's Council and maybe the NC Military Affairs Commission. He said that he thinks that Patricia Harris is front and center on this topic. We cannot be silent on this topic and we need to do what we can do. There will be more to follow on this topic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Warner asked if there were any public comments from anyone attending the meeting. He said that he had a couple items for the Executive Steering Group meeting. Flush out the SHARP issue and work on legislative stuff that we will continue to work on.

Julie Fulton said that she had a couple items. She wanted to let us know that the DoDEA schools had been approved to participate in the Purple Star Program. She also has a question for the group. She would like for the state to have an Interstate compact meeting even if we do not have a commissioner. We are going past a year since the last meeting was held and she hates to see it go so long in between meetings and no answer when there will be a new commissioner. Chairman Warner asked if there was

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not a board for the MIC3 that can organize a meeting? Doug Taggart said that he was the organizer for the MIC3 meeting and there are 4 VIP members which are Donnie Loftus (Senate appointee) Rep Szoka (Cumberland County/House appointee), Commissioner (Governor appointee) and State Superintendent. We can still get the rest of the group together for a meeting if that is what this group wants to do. This could be a collective meeting to get our thought together. Chairman Warner said that maybe you can have a task force meeting to get your thoughts and ideas together to provide to the VIP members when Doug Taggart can get them to schedule a meeting. Chairman Warner said that he would encourage Doug Taggart to coordinate that meeting and asked Julie Fulton to bulldog Doug Taggart about having the meeting.

Kelly Jackson said that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be hosting a couple of Women MILVETS events. The first event will be a virtual Women MILVETS Summit and Expo on October 15, 2020 from 9am – 12 pm. The platform will be hosted by AARP. We want the women MILVETS to know that we are still here for them. Also, the in person event has been rescheduled to May 18, 2021 due to COVID 19. That event will be at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:45 pm.