

North Carolina Committee Military Affairs Commission  
Quality of Life Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

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DATE: 19 NOV 2014  
TIME: 0900  
SUBJECT: Quarterly Committee Meeting  
LOCATION: Conference Call

I. Call to Order: LTC Robert Anderson - Committee Chair:

Voting Members Present:

- \* Hon. George Breece (Fort Bragg)
- \* LTC Robert Anderson, USA Retired (Fort Bragg)
- \* Cindi Basenspiller (At-Large)

Introduction of Non-Voting Members present / on call:

- Sen. Wesley Meredith
- Mike Evers
- Sebastian Montanya
- Kim Rhinehardt

II. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from 09 April 2014 Meeting Approved
  - Motion to Approve: (Breece)
  - Second: (Basenspiller)
  - Vote : APPROVED (Unanimous)

III. Action Item Registry

A. Priority Issue: 911 CALL CENTER: Discussion

- REPORT:
  - MCB Lejeune - Desire an integrated call center with the City of Jacksonville - share responsibility in acquiring required equipment for use by MCB Lejeune facilities.
  - FORT BRAGG - Desires the funds available to continue to operated their own 911 Call Center and receive revenues / fees derived from the activities of the 911 Call Center. Fort Bragg does not have an interest in integrating their call center with the City of

Fayetteville as they had an active, operating call center prior to legislation.

- Motion (Anderson) - Recommend to NCMAC Legislative Affairs Committee that installations be allowed to name their respective call centers as they deem appropriate, establishing their own methods of operation.
  - So Moved (Breece)
  - Second (Sen. Meredith)

#### B. Child Care / CDC Licensing

- NC does not recognize Federal licensure
- Garrison Command at Fort Bragg would like to initiate a study with the assistance of NC DHHS to develop guidelines that will allow NC requirements for licensing to match federal requirements
  - Recommendation (Breece) - Recommend to NCMAC Legislative Affairs Committee that a study be appointed and include all installations concerned to determine reciprocity as it relates to federal and state child care. Recommendations from this study should then be presented to NCMAC and, subsequently, to ESG.
    - So Moved (Anderson)
    - Second (Basenspiller)

#### C. Community College Training

*New Business Issue: Forwarded to NCMAC Legislative Affairs - in past years firefighting training had been for free. It is now fee based. Chairman Anderson has spoken with the community college system about the issue. The unofficial community college system response was that any associated fee was driven by budget cuts that prevented the system from conducting such training free of charge.*

#### D. Installation Commanders Priority List Items

- NC National Guard
  - Armory Fire Insurance - Review possible steps for the reversion of the NCNG fire insurance status to "General" versus "Special Funds". Under "General" status, the State Insurance Fund covered the cost for state owned and maintained facilities, "Special Funds" requires the organization to pay insurance premiums. This is an annual cost of approximately \$267,000. Federal funds may not be used for insurance purposes; this will come out of the state 100% funded facility O&S cost center.
  - Tuition Assistance: Provide free tuition (in-state/resident) for NC public institutions (colleges and universities) for active members of the North Carolina National Guard.

- NC provides \$1.8M in Tuition Assistance that we pay back to schools to cover tuition. It costs all involved time and money to support the program, i.e.: Legislative actions, program managers, program administration fees, etc. We eliminate the overhead and bi-annual legislative actions by passing a single bill to address the NCNG needs.
- 32 of 50 States provide some form of free tuition for a 4 year degree at state funded institutions (universities and colleges)
  - 25 states provide a similar benefit: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.
  - 2 States provide 75%: Montana and Nebraska
  - 5 additional states provide 50%: Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and South Dakota
- New York provides an example of successful program implementation where NY was one of the bottom 10 states for soldier retention prior to implementation and jumped to one of the top ten post implementation. Citizens remained soldiers to gain an education.
- National Guard and Reserve Voting Member on NC Military Affairs Commission: Seeking at least one Voting member seat, preferably two seats (one for NCNG and one for Reserves), on the NC MAC. Currently the National Guard has 11,773 service members, the other reserve components in the state make up 11,562 (for a combined total of 23,335). With the number of Service Members exceeding most of the major installations (all except Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune) and an economic impact nearly matching or exceeding the smaller installations, the Reserve components should have voting member representation on the NC Military Affairs Commission.
- Technical corrections to state statute:
  - Chapter 127A--general modernization to be "unisex" in the language and replace dated language with modern homeland security terms;
  - Criminal provision for interfering with member of guard performing duties;
  - Possible NC "Stolen Valor" type act--individuals subject to arrest for not being in the service and wearing a uniform;
  - Fine for having property of Federal or State government when it is not issued to you; and
  - Detailed procedures for when units/armories are closed-- what to do with NAFs and other financial issues.
  - Change definition of a "veteran" to include NG members who had served the state but not been mobilized on T10

- Define "major military installation" to include "all National Guard and Reserve forces facilities" (GS 143-151.71)

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E. NCMAC Top 10 Action Item List Review

- 911 Call Center continues to be priority issue for the committee
- Engaging the NC National Guard on Quality of Life Issues is now and emerging priority for the committee

F. New Business / Issues

- In State Tuition Update - Kim Rhinehardt: in last session funding was set aside in trust account to provide matching funds for out of state students who can't prove residency - federal law changed to mandate that all universities must accept students and offer in-state tuition benefits - this requires a legislative change - but important for Quality of Life to know that this is a pending change/request. Hopefully will be enacted early in session and must be implemented by 7/1/2015.

V. Adjournment