



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 1st Quarter Meeting of the NC Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC)

Tuesday, February 16, 2020 via Microsoft Teams/Conference number

984-204-1487/Code 541 911 005#

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Hon Grier Martin, Public Member
Rep. George Cleveland, NCGA
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired, Cherry Point
Etteinne Mitchell, Cherry Point
MG Rodney Anderson, USA Retired, Fort Bragg
COL David Hayden, USA Retired, Public Member
COL Kirk Warner, USA, Retired, Fort Bragg
MG Gerald A. Rudisill, Jr, USA Retired, National Guard
Col. David Myers, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune
Timothy McClain, Public Member
Patricia Harris, USA Ret., Public Member
Bernard Cofield, Coast Guard Retired, Elizabeth City
BG Arnold Gordon-Bray, USA Retired, Fort Bragg
Dr. Scott LaFevers, Seymour Johnson AFB
SgtMaj William Hatcher, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune
Norman Sanderson, NCGA (Non-voting)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hon Will Lewis, Cherry Point
MG Edward Reeder, USA, Retired, Fort Bragg
Hon Chuck Allen, Seymour Johnson AFB
Julie Daniels, Seymour Johnson AFB
David "Crockett" Long, Public Member
Wesley Meredith, Fort Bragg
Rep John Bell, NCGA (Non-voting)

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS:

Secretary Walter Gaskin
COL Scott Pence, Fort Bragg
MG Todd Hunt, NC National Guard
Will Best, Commerce

NCCC:

Mike Scalise, MCI-East
Bryan Ayers, MCI-East

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Larry Coleman, NCNG Association
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Chad Sydnor, Cassidy & Associates
Ed Turlington, Brooks Pierce
Barry Rhodes, Cassidy & Associates
Doug Taggart, DPI
Brian Pierce, NC National Guard
Manley James, Selective Service
Kevin Burch
Bob Coats, OSBM
Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg CYS/SLO
Valerie Nasser, Craven Cty Schools
Jamie Livengood, Wayne Cty Schools
Scott Dorney, NCMBC
Denny Lewis, EDPNC
Rollie Sampson, Moore County
Christy Agner, Hometown Strong
PJ Connelly, Hometown Strong
Dennis Goodson, Seymour Johnson
Gregg Fambrough, SJAFB
Donna Grady,
Brittany Norman,
Cristy Barnes-Williams
Howard Lattimore, Fort Bragg Schools
Keith Martin, MECC
Rhonda Murray
Maureen Stover, NCTeacher of the Year
Shadia Young, Fort Bragg

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 2

DMVA:

Ariel Aponte
Greg Bethea
Chris Moore
Kelly Jackson

Jim McCleskey, Governor's office
Christopher Hailey, LA Grier Martin
Representative John Szoka

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS:

Chairman Grier Martin called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting both members and other attendees. There were 16 voting/non-voting members via Microsoft Teams/phone for a quorum. He asked Kelly Jackson to read the Ethics Statement. Kelly Jackson said that the Commission had a legal obligation to disclose any conflict of interest a member that may or may not arise or potentially arise with your regular job or any of your business of the of this Commission. If you have a potential conflict, we ask that you disclose that potential conflict, so we are aware of the potential conflict. Does anyone have such conflict? Does anyone have any potential 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.

CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the 4th Quarter 2020 NCMAC meeting minutes dated November 17, 2020. A motion was made by David Hayden and seconded by Gerald A. Rudisill Jr., and passed unanimously without discussion. The minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Martin asked if anyone from the Public had any comments. Scott Dorney from NC Military Business Center (NCMBC) had a couple of comments. He said that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to this group. He wanted to start the meeting with some good news. As they predicted, FY 20 was a very good year for defense and government contracting in North Carolina. Department of Defense (DoD) spending in NC place of performance increased to \$6.1B and that was prime contracts. That was an increase of spending by \$1.1B over FY2019. The total federal prime contracts executed in the State in 2020 were \$9.5B which was an increase of \$2.4B over 2019. Where other sectors in our economy may have suffered from COVID-19, DoD and federal contracting was up significantly in our State. Principally due to Hurricane Florence Recovery contracts awarded within 2020 as well as a surge in medical and COVID related contracts as well. He can provide any details by county if anyone has any questions, just contact him.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: SECRETARY WALTER GASKIN

Secretary Walter Gaskin said that he is honored to be part of this meeting. He wanted to say that he is and will always be a fan of what the NC Military Affairs Commission does, and he has seen the great work that this Commission has done and the growth of that great work that they do to support the military and their families. I have come in and done an assessment of the goals that I would like to see for this Department. The goals are for the Department 1) Ensure an effective, accountable, and a well-run Department as he has done throughout his career; 2) Support Military Communities to include personnel, installations, and surrounding communities. Support the Veterans and their families by providing a full spectrum of resources; 3) Continue collaborative and supporting efforts with non-profit

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission

February 16, 2021

Page 3

and civic organizations that support the Military and Veterans Affairs; 4) Great collaboration with the NC Military Affairs Commission. He wants the collaboration with the Military Affairs Commission to be as seamless as possible so that we both share the same missions, and goals for our Service members, Veterans, and military families. He appreciates the opportunity to address the Commission members. Chairman Martin said that he would do a retro-active introduction to the Commission members. Secretary Gaskin is a former member of this Commission and he also has an extensive service to the United States Marine Corps where he retired as a Lieutenant General where he commanded at almost every level including the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. He has spent a vast amount of his time in North Carolina, and he has great insight as to what makes it a place where our service members want to live, train, and retire. He also wants to thank Secretary Gaskin for his desire for great collaboration between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the NC Military Affairs Commission. From the day he came into this job, he reached out to Chairman Martin and presented a great plan for collaboration. He has also been meeting with the Committee Chairmen to talk about our way ahead for collaboration. These discussions are going to enhance the NC Military Affairs Commission to better serve the State. Chairman Martin said that he welcomed him to the NC Military Affairs Commission again and looks forward to this new partnership.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMANDER'S COUNCIL (NCCC) REPORT: MICHAEL SCALISE

Mike Scalise from Marine Corps Installation - East (MCI-East) gave the members an update from the North Carolina Commander's Council (NCCC). He said that he thought their meeting was very fruitful and valuable today. They had the opportunity tell say hello and goodbye to a couple of members. They got to welcome aboard Sec Gaskin but saying fair winds and following seas to Bryan Ayers. He will be getting a new job with the Navy. We also had a great exchange today between the Commands about COVID. We are at the point now and that has a lot to do with the vaccine and we are beginning to see some successes. We are tracking along with the State figures and we are seeing a dip. We hope to see soon the light at the end of the tunnel. Across the board the Commanders have challenges but the impact on readiness is marginal and they are able to press on with doing the Nations business with support from the State of NC. Our schools became a discussion, and they did have a period of discussion that he will discuss later, lessons learned. They also discussed Inter-governmental Support Agreements (IGSA) and historically those IGSA's have been in support of the local mission. We have Onslow County and Jacksonville working with the Base and now we have a couple of these IGSA's at the State level. The Marine Corps IGSA has been with NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The NCDOT IGSA's is in support of maintenance aboard Fort Bragg as well as execution of a construction project. We are encouraged as these move forward and there is a lot of opportunity for partnerships. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) discusses ISGA's 2021, and this is a good thing and supports the Installations. We had a state of the education briefing from Donna Grady, School Liaison officer from Camp Lejeune. She talked about the level of success that our Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school were having on Camp Lejeune with the in-class students that is happening. They understand their target audience, and the end-state to be mission readiness and the service members focused on the mission and their kids are in school being supported by the teachers and the Command.

They have had challenges, but they work through each challenge. We also had an informative brief from Jeremy Tarr, Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy. That discussion had to do with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed in October in 2020 about Off-Shore Wind. They are building

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 4

that capacity in North Carolina waters. The MOU itself is a good document but it does not have a lot of detail that the installation commanders are interested in. There is a process that is used through the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to identify impacted wind turbines. That is called the Clearing House. In North Carolina you have call areas, and we have three of them. These three areas are Kitty Hawk, East and West Wilmington. What they were interested in for those areas is that they have been reviewed by the Federal Government. They wanted to find out if there was an initiative to open some of them up within the State of North Carolina. Jeremy Tar was able to discuss that the process of requesting wind turbines for Off-Shore is the same at the Federal level as the State level. So, going through the Clearing House. We will have visibility of any initiatives that may come up and then we will have the ability to respond if there is or is not any adverse potential to the military mission footprint. That was a good new story that they are using the process. What he would ask the NC Military Affairs Commission to do is that if there is any industry interest to expanding any of those areas. Is that something that needs to be watched by North Carolina under the specific lens that is there are military impact should the existing call area be expended on. That could take a year for this to happen. Finally, we reviewed some of the upcoming legislative actions. That ranges from school to tax exemption. Chairman Martin said that it would be hard to let Bryan Ayers go and he wishes him the best of luck in his new position with the Navy. He has been a great friend to the NC Military Affairs Commission.

NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR: MAUREEN STOVER:

Kirk Warner said that Maureen Stover is a United State Air Force Academy graduate as well as her husband. She has been selected as the NC Teacher of the year for 2020 and hopefully a National recognition. She is going to speak about her experiences as a teacher and getting her teacher's license in North Carolina.

"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.

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)

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission

February 16, 2021

Page 5

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.

Discussion: Rodney Anderson said that this was a wonderful testimony of the marvelous attributes of the men and women who have served in a military uniform. Also, how powerful it is that we encourage them to transition and remain here in our great state. What a powerful addition to our workforce to have such brilliant people as we just heard to do what they do. He thinks she deserves a big round of applause from this group. Maureen Stover said that she appreciated his comments, but she wanted to highlight the number of people that we have in North Carolina who were in the military and have transitioned into a career in a classroom or doing something that supports our public education. The school that she taught at only had 12 teachers and of those 12 teachers, one half of them are Veterans. She said that she thinks you can see that in a lot of the schools and that is usually beneficial for the kids because they bring so much wealth when they step into a classroom. They also already have an incredible passion for service and that is what shows when they transition into education. Chairman Martin said that she talked about working with the Department of Public Instruction about streamlining their process to get their folks licensed. Does she have any specific recommendations for that process? She said that she has been working with Dr. Tomberlin at DPI who is in charge of licensure. He is committed to streamline that process for anyone who is transitioning into North Carolina. They are working hard to develop a system that will be a tiered licensure process. That will mean that instead of where we are now and come in as an initially licensed teacher for three years, and then transition to a fully licensed teacher, there will be seven different tiers. In these seven different tiers, there will be different exit points or opportunities for teachers to progress. It will also help to promote teachers to be master teachers and expert teachers. With that process, we are trying to figure out the things that we are truly looking for in an educator and how do we promote those educators to get the right personnel into the classrooms will be critically important. It is also important that as we have teachers that are transitioning in from different states, there does need to be some type of way to vet that teacher to ensure that they meet the standards for the State of North Carolina. So, when she came into North Carolina, she had been a teacher who had done some pre-service work in Texas, a licensed teacher in Florida and had worked for the National Science teaching association in California. As she did

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission

February 16, 2021

Page 6

have a lot of experience, she was still an unknown factor. It was still very important for North Carolina, Cumberland County and her Principle to have a process by which they could vet that she was an effective teacher because we want to ensure that any teacher that we put into a classroom is an effective educator and can help our kids learn. She has been working with Dr. Tomberlin on that and they have made a lot of progress to streamline that process, so we are able to determine this quicker. She was in that process for three years because she was placed into the system as an initial licensed teacher because in Florida she was a military spouse and did not need the health insurance. So, the Florida school system hired her as a long term substitute, but she was still the teacher of record. She did everything as the teacher of record but in the pay system she was a long term substitute. That was a cost savings for that county and the school system. When she came to North Carolina and it said that she was a long term substitute, North Carolina did not recognize that she was the teacher of record and she was put into the initial teacher licensure program and she went through that program. That made her a much better mentor teacher and cooperating teacher as she worked with their student teachers but she also knows that for many people that is a deterrent and for many military spouses they will choose not to go into classroom instruction in North Carolina because of issues like that. Chairman Martin said that was very useful information. He asked Maureen Stover to keep the Commission informed and apprised of the developments when it comes to licensure. The Commission's job is to advise the Governor, General Assembly, and other State agencies on matters like this. You are a great source of information for us, where the rubber meets the road. If you see things that are working or not working, please reach out to the Commission so we can do our job to help you do your job. Kirk Warner said that she had mentioned that Troops to Teachers had been one of her start points. We have Doug Taggart who is responsible for that program in North Carolina. He has mentioned to us that the Department of Defense (DoD) is preparing to officially Sunset that program in May/June of this year. It seems to him that we need to quickly show that the Troops to Teachers is a shining program and push back on that type of Sunsetting provision. Maureen Stover said that she agreed with his comments. She had told Doug Taggart that if she had not been involved with Troops to Teachers, she might not have been a classroom teacher today. That was such an effective program and provided mentorship for her in the very early days. It continued to be a program that she could turn to when she needed to. It is an effective program to introduce our military to the opportunities to transition into education. Another thing that Doug Taggart has mentioned is that through the mentorship program and shadowing programs that he has established in Cumberland County, sometimes that person realizes early on that being an educator in the classroom is not a career for them. That can be just as important as learning that you do want to be an educator. We do not want to have someone get a degree in education to realize that education is not a good fit for them. She thinks that there are a lot of people in the military that do not realize how incredible it is to be an educator and the impact they would have as an educator. Anything that she can do to assist Doug Taggart or anyone else, she is happy to do that. She is always willing to tell her story. Secretary Gaskin said that she had a wonderful story. What he would like to see from his Department is help facilitate that transition of what you had to go through. He would like to get in touch with her to see what we can do with DPI to improve that process when you have someone with her qualities and capabilities wanting to teach. We want to ensure that we are encouraging and not discouraging service members from being teachers.

ET Mitchell said that she wanted to welcome Secretary Gaskin to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. She is a lead for the NC Military Affairs Commission's Strategic Communications

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission

February 16, 2021

Page 7

Working Group. She could see Rodney Anderson's wheels turning during this presentation. She wants to let everyone know what she heard from this presentation. We have someone who is a graduate of the Air Force Academy, serviced on active duty with the leadership skills involved, and yet there seemed to be a lack of understanding when you were moving into the education community over the value added that your military service brought to our classrooms. Compared to someone who is 23 years old as opposed to someone like you, let her tell you who she would want her child under and in our schools. She sees a gap in our communications issues to the Great State of North Carolina in terms of focusing on the value added of both military spouses and active duty military service members. She hopes that in the months ahead she can enlist you in that as you are a sterling example of why we need the Troops to Teachers program and especially here. Maureen Stover said that she completely agrees. She thinks that we have the right people in place to tell that story and because her Board Chairman Eric Davis is a West Point graduate, DPI Superintendent Catherine Truitt is a military spouse, and her husband is a Naval Academy graduate. She thinks we have people in places that can tell the story. She knows that if she walks into a place and just talks about data that is only one part of the story and now we have people that can tell the other part of the story. She wanted to let everyone know that there are wonderful teachers that do not have any military background. The more we can tell those stories and show the impact of Troops to Teachers or mentoring by service members, the better chance we have of helping people who policy makers or in a position of providing that funding to understand the importance of those programs and why it is so important for those programs to remain in place. ET Mitchell said that she wanted her on our team. Maureen Stover said that she would be on the team. Chairman Martin said that he appreciated her taking time to be with the Commission today and he looked forward to working with her in the future.

BASE SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (BS&CA): FRANK BOTTORFF

Frank Bottorff reported on the 1st Quarter Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee meeting that met on January 19, 2021. We talked about a couple items but no big ticket items. We did come out of the meeting with a couple of goals for the next three months and into the next meeting schedule. We talked about the two old grants and they are still closing out. There is just some paperwork to complete with the State. We have the three new grants and they have not started yet. We are going through some paperwork processes with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and we have a way ahead on getting the grants moving forward. The notice to proceed will be coming in the near future. We talked about the budget and the Census, but he will talk about that later. We had a Sentinel Landscape discussion and COVID has been an issues for them, but the project is doing well thanks to the dedication from Dewitt Hardee and his staff. We had updates from Commerce and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) but nothing significant to add. It did lead into a Wind discussion and Mike Scalise did talk about some of that already. When it comes to the impact of wind turbines and wind farms on military training in North Carolina, it is a subject that we have not really talked much about over the last year. Over the next three months we are going to get a conversation going between Commerce, DEQ and us and talk about the current approval process in North Carolina. Then we will look at a briefing for the next quarterly Commission meeting so that all of our members can get up to speed on where we were, how requests are approved and how we deconflict that with military training. We can look at that for a future item. We also talked about the Score Card and one of the things that was in the NDAA this year was to incorporate some of those Quality of Life things into basic decisions. The quality of life things on the Score Card that potentially include grading the education

status around installations, portability of licensure for military spouses and things like that. Each service can do their own and we have looked at the Air Force version before and we will track that item. Because of that we need to look to see if there is anything that this Commission can do to try to improve our outlook in those areas. We need to be looking at that in the next three months. That is all from Sustainability.

QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL): KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner reported on the 1st Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting that met on January 26, 2021. He said that he would take it from Frank Bottorff as he has handed the Score Card focus to the Quality of Life Committee. His committee had another great meeting. There were over 30 members in attendance and people like Maureen Stover were part of that meeting. He wanted to remind the Commission that the new DPI Superintendent Catherine Truitt is a military spouse and something we should be utilizing and someone that would be supportive of our efforts. We had a brief from Nick Sojka on the Interstate Compact and including the National Guard and Reserves and their families into the Compact. We also had a great briefing from Paul Berry from the Veterans Bridge Home and NCServes which is a state-wide coordinated care network for veterans, service members and their families. That program deserves our support, and they are doing great work. One of the committee's priorities is K-12 education. We had a good update on the Purple Star program from Valerie Nasser, Craven County Also that April is the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up Day will be celebrated on April 16 so wear purple that day to support our military children. He knows that Donna Grady, Camp Lejeune prepped the NC Commander's Council on the state of our Education and the Purple Star program. We have 134 applications in one district and the 7th state to adopt this program. This year the program has added the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools to this program. The School Liaison officers, as part of this program have trained 1675 staff members. That number is impressive and something that should be done in all schools. That is a good news story. We talked a little bit about the Stop Movement Orders and delayed Permanent Change of Station (PCS). We talked about how this has affected readiness and that affect has not been significant, but it is affecting the parents and students. Especially in the High Schools. Also, the students with special needs because that can be very difficult. We received a couple great updates from the Military Liaison Officers and School Liaison Officers. Kirk Warner said that he had reports from all of the Military Liaison Counselors and School Liaison Counselors and there was one in particular that was noteworthy. Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Wayne County have some great collaboration going on. 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

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 9

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 new 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. The goals are for this school to open up in Fall of 2022. We also had a great presentation from the NC 2020 Teacher of the Year Maureen Stover. She is a Veteran and military spouse. The last presentation was from Patricia Harris about Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. That is a work in progress, and we will keep an eye on that situation. He will be working on the Score Card issue and Housing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DAVID HAYDEN

David Hayden reported for the 1st Quarter Economic Development Committee meeting that met on January 21, 2021. They did have their routine attendees, but they also have a brief from Joe Melvin from NC Southeast. He has broadened our input on economic development as it pertains to the Wilmington area. Jamie Norment gave us a great update on Cherry Point and Fleet Readiness Center (FRC-East) and the money coming into that area. We also received an update from Cassidy & Associates which you will be hearing from later in this meeting. As you may remember, some of the funding that was going to the bases had been redirected to the boarder project. That has seemed to have stopped and we are not sure how that will impact us now. Rodney Anderson shared a lot of information from Fort Bragg. One of the items that he did share with us is that Womack has been very proactive reference COVID-19. They have administered both of the vaccines and are also part of a study on another drug and has shown a lot of potential. He also let us know that in 2020 the number of veterans transiting out of the military from Fort Bragg was down 2000 individuals. The Veterans are staying with the Force during these uncertain times of employment. But also, in 2021, and as things get better, you will probably see an uptick in that number and could be more than we normally see transition out of the military. We also received an update from Scott Dorney, NC Military Business Center and he has already shared some good news with this group. One of the things that he did not share with the Commission was that we have cyber security requirements and will be spread throughout all of the federal government contracting in the United States. His group is trying to get ahead of that wave, but the implementation pace is uncertain at this point, but it will be coming. We heard from Will Best, NC Commerce and one of the things that we are looking at from 2013 was a report that was completed and co-sponsored by the Commission and the Department of Commerce. We have already had discussions about updating this report. You will be hearing from Chad Sydnor about Base Alignment and Closure (BRAC). That is one of the reasons why this Commission was created. To help North Carolina in the case of a future BRAC. There has been a lot of information out there that there is a growing momentum to look at pursuing another BRAC. All of the more reason for us to double our efforts on all of the initiatives we are trying to do to protect the State of North Carolina, our economy, and our bases from a future BRAC. This Economic Impact Report is just another one of those initiatives and is just one of

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 10

these examples. We need to be prepared if a BRAC happens. The new Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin has indicated that he is going to talk to his leaders and assess whether they need to go down that path again. We are hearing both from the DoD and Congress about a potential BRAC. When Chad Sydnor talks about this, please pay attention to what he has to say. We also heard from Denny Lewis, Economic Development Partnership for NC about the new marketing initiatives that they have been pursuing since last Fall and this is very timely.

The last thing that he wanted to get into is the Resolution that the Commission is going to consider and was provided to the Commission members prior to this meeting. It was a Resolution of Support for military retired pay tax exemption and prepared by Chairman Martin that addresses a general position of support and what we agreed to at the last Commission meeting. Everyone has had a chance to review this Resolution he would ask the Chairman if we are ready to receive a motion or entertain any more comments about this topic. Chairman Martin said that he would like to have Representative Szoka speak at this time. Many of you know that we had a presentation on one potential bill before the General Assembly and Representative Cleveland has talked some about his bill. Rep John Szoka also has some legislation, and we would like to give him some time to talk about it. If you have not met Rep Szoka before, he hopes that you will, and he has served with him in the House of Representatives for many years. He is a great legislator, a proud Army Veteran and all around good guy. He would love to see him as a Commission member someday. He will pass this over to Rep Szoka.

Rep Szoka said that today he filed House Bill 83, Eliminate Income Tax for Military Retirees. This is almost exactly the same as the bill he had filed last year. What it does is exclude military retiree pay from taxation for retired members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The problem that he has had in the past, and he will talk about it with other members of the General Assembly, but he will say that many of them have been caught up in the Bailey discussion without going back to the root of the discussion. So, he has done something that he had not done before and asked the Legislative Analysis Division to take a look at this bill. He asked the specific question, is there anything in law that prevents them from doing this in law and please consider the Bailey decision. They did that and walked him through the history of Bailey. Where the State went wrong was because the Bailey decision was that North Carolina was exempting State retirement pay from taxation but not Federal/Military pay. That is what initiated the series of Bailey lawsuits. We all know how that ended and you had to be invested before 1989. But in the research that was done, with North Carolina and Federal law, their conclusion is we are ok to do this. Some people may say that State employees may sue, or other groups may sue but he is not concerned with trying to sidestep lawsuits, but he is concerned about the legality of what we are trying to do. What the staff is telling him, the non-partisan staff is that as far as they can see is that we are fine if this bill passes, and it is legally sufficient. The cost of the bill, and it is not really a cost but those revenues that are not collected. He wants to talk about his for a minute. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 it is initially \$26.03 M; FY 2022-2023 \$29.62 M; FY 2023-2024 \$34.11 M. It is not an overly large amount of money. He thinks that we have known this for a long time that it was not an overly large amount of money, but it is significant when you are talking millions of dollars. But in terms of living into our promise that we are going to be the most military friendly State in the Union, it is time for us to actually bring this up and discuss it. Have all of the staff attorneys in the Legislature get on board and have their say as to the legality of this. He thinks that we can pass this legislation. He will stand for any questions from the Commission. ET Mitchell made a comment. She thanked Rep Szoka for looking into

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 11

this bill and looking into the Bailey issue. She has been doing her own research on this matter. There are 21 States that exempt military retired pay. We seem to be viewing this as that we are the only ones that do not give the tax exemption and we are not, there are 21 other states that give an exemption. There are only four States that do not. It is clearly possible to do this, and we need to be looking at how to get this done. If we do not, we cannot claim to be the Most Military Friendly State. This rules us out. She said she appreciated his work on this topic and something the Commission needs to really get behind. David Hayden said that he believed that the number was 31 States do not tax retired military pay, not 21 States. ET Mitchell said that there are 21 State that do not tax it at all and another 38 States that have partial exemptions. Shadia Young, Family Advocacy said that she had a personal comment. Her husband is retiring from the Army after 21 years of service. Prior to his retirement they have been talking about where they will be moving to that will be the most military friendly when it comes to his retirement and his disability. North Carolina is not in the top five states that we are looking at for us to retire to. As a former military spouse, she is excited for the prospects of this bill being passed and how this will show that North Carolina is military friendly. Chairman Martin said that is a testimonial for this bill and its passage. Rep Szoka said that he appreciated the invitation to speak to this Commission and he hopes that everyone in the Legislature can get behind this and the Governor will sign it. Chairman Martin said that Rep Szoka was always welcome to speak to the Commission and thanked him for his time today.

Chairman Martin turned the meeting back over to David Hayden and asked him if as part of his Committee report did he want to bring forth the draft Resolution for consideration by the Commission. David Hayden said that in the interest of time he will not read the Resolution, but he thinks that the general consensus at the last meeting was not to specifically endorse any particular legislation but to endorse a particular outcome and to support any legislation that would grant an exemption to military retired pay from state taxation. Having the Resolution provided prior to this meeting, he would suggest that If anyone has any corrections or comments, they make them now. If we do not hear anything, we will entertain a motion at the Chairman's approval to move forward and approve this Resolution. Chairman Martin said that Kelly Jackson sent out a copy of the draft Resolution to the Commission members. He asked if there are any questions or comments about the draft Resolution? Kirk Warner said that he wanted to make a recommendation. He asked if anyone had read the new book America's First Veterans. It is exceptional and prologue has a statement that he would like to read. It sets up this Resolution. We understand the military service involves sacrifices for which free societies ensure obligations that transcend the commitments they make to others in their service. Men and Women in the military sacrifice their liberty, embrace discipline that deprives them of freedoms other possess, accepts risk few civilians encounter and forgo opportunities and ordinary pleasures others enjoy in which their services make possible. Those who serve in combat endure terrors and suffering beyond the comprehension of most of their fellow citizens. Our debt to them is no ordinary debt. No financial transaction can discharge it. That is the quote. It is important to know that this is a start and what we as the Commission must understand and make others understand how special military service is. This must guide all that we do for our military and this great state. This Resolution should be supported. Rep Cleveland asked if David Hayden said that changes had been made to the Resolution? Kelly Jackson said that the draft Resolution that was sent out incorporated any change that had been requested. Frank Bottorff made a motion to approve the Resolution as written. ET Mitchell seconded the motion. Chairman Martin asked if there was any discussion? The Commission voted unanimously to approve the

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 12

Resolution. Chairman Martin asked Kelly Jackson to prepare the Resolution for his signature and then we will send it to the General Assembly. Rodney Anderson said that it would serve us well to review the factors that would make someone decide to remain in North Carolina verses leaving. We have put a lot of effort into retiree pay taxation but there have got to be other factors that keep North Carolina from being in the top five. This would be helpful for us moving forward and relates to our vision statement. David Myers said that one of the three Community Grant Awardees is Fayetteville State University (FSU) and will be doing a study on this topic. Rodney Anderson said that this time it has not been funded. Frank Bottorff said that it has been funded but the notice to proceed has not been sent out yet. We will see the draft questions in the next three months and then we can provide input to that survey. We did ask them to put something in there to specifically address the impact of military retired pay taxation. Kelly Jackson said that the three Community Grants are being worked on currently. We still have a due out from the City of Fayetteville on their grant. We are completing the final paperwork for FSU and Homefront Room Revival. Gerald Rudisill asked if there has been any strong opposition identified for this bill? Chairman Martin said the will let Rep Szoka or Rep Cleveland answer that question. Rep Cleveland said that he and Chairman Martin know what the obstacles will be. He has filed another bill last Friday to address this from a different area and he is waiting to get some fiscal notes on this matter. We all know his personnel feeling on that. He is not against the military as you all know but what is good for the goose is good for the gander. That is the road he is going down. There will be obstacles and others that do not want to touch this topic. It will be up to the leadership if this moves forward or not and that is where we are at. Chairman Martin said that his standard answer is write your State legislator. We will keep working to get a bill passed. This will only happen if folks around the state are getting in contact with their Representatives and Senators and let the powers to be known that this is a priority. Rep Cleveland said that he had preached this for years. Chairman Martin asked if there was anything else from the Economic Development Committee? David Hayden said that he appreciated the momentum that has happened on this topic and hopes that we will have something in line with our Resolution by the end of the Session.

The last item that he wanted to talk about was that as a Commission we have already approved three Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and they will all be important as the Commission moves forward. One is with the Defense Alliance of NC (DANC) and it has been executed to further take our industry study and enhance the value of that economy. We have the MOU with NC4ME to continue to support their efforts with employment for transitioning veterans. And the third one is with the National Guard Association to support eh National Guard Association of the United States and be a sponsor for the September conference in Charlotte, NC. This will give us an opportunity to highlight what we have in North Carolina and the good news about our military installations and communities. Frank Bottorff said that he wanted to make a comment about the Economic Impact study. He did meet with a couple members from NC Commerce which included Will Best. NC Commerce had done a study in 2013 and updated the study in 2015. They are looking at the next potential update. A prior update was a partnership with the NC Military Affairs Commission. They have the personnel in their division that produced most of the study data, there is some outside analysis and modeling that will need to be done. They may come back to the Commission for financial support as a partner to help make this update happen. NC Commerce is researching how much this update could cost and how to move forward on this project. We hope to have feedback from them in the next 3 months. Chairman Martin said that he

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 13

wanted to thank the Department of Military Affairs (DMVA) for their support of the Commission on getting out these MOU's.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:

Chairman Martin said that we had already talked about a couple of legislative items such as the Resolution. He asked if anyone else had any legislative affairs matters. Kelly Jackson said that he had sent out three bills to the Commission members reference the military pay tax exemption. Also, House Bill 32 on Equality of Opportunity Act and House Bill 3, Education Changes which was sponsored by Rep Cleveland, Rep Martin and Rep Bell.

BYLAWS WORKING GROUP: KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner said that he had nothing to report.

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP: FRANK BOTTORFF

Vice Chairman Frank Bottorff updated the Commission members on the budget. HE said that we are on track and according to the plan. .

NC Military Affairs Commission FY 20-21 Budget Approval and Contract Review Schedule

	20-21 Budget	20-21 Expenses	21-22 Budget
Appropriations	\$2,000,000.00		
Brought forward	\$ 893,665.88		
Budgeted		\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Administration	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 7633.30	\$ 40,000.00
Conferences	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 40,000.00
Lobbying Contract	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 178,500.00	\$ 330,000.00
Minor contracted Svc	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00
Marketing/STRATCOM	\$ 200,000.00		
Other Stab initiatives	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
NC4ME	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
MOU EDPNC	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
MOU Sent Landscape	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 150,000.00
Community Grant	\$ 225,000.00		\$ 225,000.00
Annual Total	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$	\$ 1,000,000.00
Total Expense		\$ 426,883.30	
YTD remaining		\$ 773,116.70	
Fund Balance	\$ 1,693,665.88		

Partnerships and Initiatives

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 14

Schedule of Review

Sentinel Landscapes	\$150,000 - Aug review, expires Nov 2021
EDPNC	\$120,000 – MOU Expires Dec 2021
Cassidy and Associates Lobbying	\$330,000 - Feb review, expires 31 March
Community Grants Biennial	\$225,000 - Approved Nov 2020 (\$146,056)
City of Fayetteville (\$66,880)	
Fayetteville State University (\$31,200)	
Homefront Room Revival (\$47,976)	
Defense Alliance of NC (DANC)	\$ 50,000 - Approved Aug 2020
NC4ME	\$ 40,000 - Approved Nov 2020
NGAUS Convention	\$ 10,000 - Approved Nov 2020

Contract Extension:

Cassidy and Associates

Original Contract: PO NC10505060, April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Ext 1: PO NC10574510, April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 (First renewal option)

Ext 2: April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 (If approved by the NCMAC)

Note: Final year of contract. The NCMAC will be required to re-compete this contract prior to February of 2022.

A motion, and a second is requested to approve the renewal for one (1) additional one-year period for Cassidy and Associates Lobbying contract PO NC10574510.

Rep Cleveland made a motion to approve the renewal, for one additional year for Cassidy and Associate's Lobbying contract. The motion was seconded by ET Mitchell. Chairman Martin asked if there was any discussion on the motion? There was not discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The motion carried. That concluded the budget update.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP:

Chairman Martin said that we had a Strategic Communications Working Group. Many months ago, many of the Commission members requested that we had a group work on Strategic Communications. The Commission was not in sync on what was meant by Strategic Communications but they still wanted to have a group work on this topic. He appointed ET Mitchell to lead the working group and then come to the Commission with the work from this working group and a recommendation. ET Mitchell gave an update on what the working group has been working on so far. In December of 2020, the Commission approved a Strategic Plan which focuses on the four Pillars of the Commission. Those Pillars are Base Sustainability & Community Affairs, Quality of Life, Economic Development and Legislative Affairs. The 2020 plan also goes another step. It provides priorities for strategic communications. Everyone here understands the importance of the military defense industrial complex to the State of NC. By that complex she means everything from the fiscal footprint of the bases to our military personnel, and to all of the industries that contribute to our mission or benefit from the DoD mission. Outside of this room, that can be a very different story. We have been talking about this issue and we need to communication something to someone since 2015. We got some good information from an earlier working group strategic communications, but then COVID hit and things stopped. The Chairman has requested this working group to move things forward on this topic.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 15

Strategic Communications Working Group (SCWG):

Working Group Members/Position Selection Committee

- ET Mitchell
 - Rodney Anderson
 - Chuck Allen
 - Frank Bottorff
 - Kelly Jackson
-
- Goal is to develop the Strategic Communications Plan with options to execute the implementation of the plan.

Next Steps:

- The SCWG feels the effort would benefit from a full or part time, temporary staff member to assist with the development of the plan.
- Approve funding for a temporary employee
- Approve the position selection committee the authority to select and hire a temporary employee.
- The Position Description (PD) will be developed by the selection committee and the Executive Director of the NCMAC and approved by the NCMAC Chair.
- The position will reside in DMVA and will be working for the SCWG under the direction of the NCMAC Executive Director
- The first task upon hiring will be to develop a plan development timeline which will include opportunities for commission input.

Funding Request:

- Request a motion and a second to approve \$50,000 from the Marketing/STRATCOM working group line item, within the 20-21 NCMAC budget, to hire a temporary employee.

Rodney Anderson made a motion to approve \$50,000 to hire a temporary assistant for 90-120 days that will develop the priorities and recommendation that advance the NCMA's communications strategy. Rep Cleveland seconded the motion. Chairman Martin asked if there was any discussion on this matter? Kirk Warner asked how will this person be hired? ET Mitchell said that will be determined by the working group. They will be meeting weekly. Secretary Gaskin said that his department will assist this working group with hiring this temporary employee. Chairman Martin asked Frank Bottorff if the Commission had funding for his item? Frank Bottorff said that he wanted the funding to come from the Marketing STRATCOM line item that has \$200,000 in that line items for this project. There was no further discussion on that matter. The Commission voted unanimously in support of the motion. Chairman Martin thanked the working group for all of their hard work. Sec Gaskin asked if he could add Ariel Aponte to that working group? ET Mitchell said that would be a great addition to the working group. ET Mitchell said that the working group would work through all of the details related to hiring this person. No further discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 16

CENSUS UPDATE: BOB COATS, OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (OSBM)

Bob Coats gave an update on the Census process for North Carolina.

2020 Census Demographic Data Release:

2020 Census Apportionment

Total state populations determining the apportionment of Congressional seats

Original Release Date

Current Release Date

December 31, 2020

Before April 31, 2021

2020 Redistricting (PL97-141)

Demographic information including voting age population by race and Hispanic Origin to the census block level

Original Release Date

Current Release Date

By April 1, 2021

Not Before July 30, 2021

***Demographic and Housing Characteristics (DHC) File and
Congressional District DHC File***

Release Date To Be Determined

Census Geospatial Highlights:

- 2020 Census geospatial resources were released on January 26, 2021
<https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>
- Recommended Changes to the 2010 Census Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Federal Register Notice released on January 19, 2021
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/19/2021-00988/recommendations-from-the-metropolitan-and-micropolitan-statistical-area-standards-review-committee>
- 2021 Boundary Annexation Survey materials have been mailed
Boundaries reported by March 1 will be reflected in 2021 Census estimates

Count Questions Resolution (CQR):

- Free challenge of 2020 Census counts by tribal or local governments.
- Scheduled October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023
- Challenges must be based on boundary, geocoding, or coverage issues only.
- Differential Privacy will be applied to local population – local analysis must be made on housing unit and group quarters counts.
- Best practice – prepare local resources, upload 2020 Census geospatial data, and download CQR GUPS software

Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS):

- Annual survey tracking boundary changes legally in effect on or before January 1
- Materials mailed January
- Updates submitted by March 1 will be reflected in that year's ACS and Census estimates

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 17

- March/April non-response follow-up
- BAS is separate from the State Demographer's annual survey.

BAS-Best Practices:

- Always verify your boundaries!
- TIGERweb for online review. <https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/>
- Census maps are generated from decades of geographic updates using many different technologies.
- Do NOT assume that your Census boundaries are correct because you have not annexed recently.

Contact:

Bob Coats

984-236-0687

Bob.Coats@osbm.nc.gov

Governor's Census Liaison,

North Carolina State Data Center

Demographic and Economic Analysis Section

NC Office of State Budget and Management

Chairman Martin thanked Bob Coats for his support of the Commission and his presentations.

CASSIDY & ASSOCIATES: CHAD SYDNOR

Chad Sydnor gave a presentation for Cassidy and Associates.

Earmarks:

- **Rep. Rosa DeLauro** (D-CT) and Sen. **Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), the new chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations panels, will announce in the coming weeks that Democrats will reinstate earmarks -- also known as "member-directed spending" -- in next fiscal year's spending bills.
- Democrats say they will be transparent and disclose the details of each earmark -- who requested it, and which entity would get the money.
- Members cannot request earmarks for entities to which they have financial ties.
- Congress will not allow earmarks for for-profit institutions, such as private companies.
- Earmarks will be limited to state and local governments and nonprofits that carry out quasi-government functions.
- There will be limits on how much of each spending bill can be allocated toward earmarks.
- Some lawmakers, including House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), have been arguing for years that Congress should bring back earmarks. The idea is to give members of Congress a personal stake in spending bills.
- Hoyer and other pro-earmark lawmakers also argue that no one knows the needs of a state or congressional district better than the people who represent them in Congress.

BIG QUESTION: Will House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy allow his lawmakers to take earmarks, or will he use this as an opportunity to try to set Republicans apart? Rule 30 of the House GOP rules ban

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 18

Republicans requesting earmarks. But there are many Republicans who will want to change that given the shifting politics.

Jim McCleskey said that the Earmark situation will be interesting. He has been in some early discussions with some of the delegation offices and there will be some limits on which accounts will be earmarkable. That will be relevant in a range of ways. For our purposes here, he thinks that MILCON and DoD bill will be interesting places to engage. He thinks that a number of our members will want to do that. It could be a mixed bag. He believes that in respect to Mr. Price, his leadership with Transportation Housing sub-committee that transportation will be an interesting area. Some of you may remember that our NC Department of Transportation (DOT) worked with the Fayetteville area and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and put forward a discretionary grant proposal related to the on base roads at Fort Bragg.

FY21 Review:

NDAA – Passed/Veto Overridden

- Senate version includes an amendment to provide authority to the Air Force to extend the lease of the Bryan Multi-Sports Complex in Goldsboro, NC.
- Authorizes Cherry Point Fitness Center and Pool.
- Senate version clarifies that the Navy is responsible for programming and funding all military construction at Fleet Readiness Centers.
- USMC Aviation Study

Appropriations – Passed

Installation	Project	Appropriation
Army Reserve – Asheville, NC	Reserve Center	\$24M
Camp Lejeune	II MEF Operations Center	\$20M
Fort Bragg	SOF Group HQ	\$53.1M
Fort Bragg	SOF Military Working Dog Facility	\$17.7M
Fort Bragg	SOF Operations Facility	\$43M
Fort Bragg *UFR	SOTF Chilled Water Upgrade	\$6.1M
MCAS Cherry Point *UFR	Fitness Center Replacement and Training Pool	\$0 *Authorized for \$51.9M in NDAA but no funds appropriated.
CGB Elizabeth City *UFR	Runway Repair	\$25M

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 19

FY21 DCIP:

- DCIP was created in FY19 but was not funded until FY20.
- DCIP was funded with \$50M in FY20.
- In FY20, one North Carolina project was funded in Jacksonville, NC.
- **FY21 Appropriations provided \$60M for DCIP.**
- Expect Changes:
 - New Administration, New SECDEF, and New Priorities
 - Former Secretary Esper was concerned with military family quality of life and DCIP grants reflected that.
 - We do not yet know what Secretary Austin's focus will be.

Department of Defense:

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin

- Confirmed by the Senate with a vote of 93-2 on January 22nd.
- Former General in the United States Army who retired in 2016.
- Last active-duty assignment was the Commander of United States Central Command
- Served in various assignments at Fort Bragg including Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks

- Kathleen H. Hicks is the 35th deputy secretary of defense, sworn in on Feb. 9, 2021.
- Most recently, she served as senior vice president and director of the international security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- Previously, she served in varying leadership roles within DOD, including principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, leading the development of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance.

117th Congress:

House

- House Armed Services Committee
 - Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA)
 - Ranking Member Mike Rogers (R-AL)*
- House Appropriations Committee
 - Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)*
 - Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX)
- Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Chairwoman Betty McCollum (D-MN)*
 - Ranking Member Ken Calvert (R-CA)
- Military Construction/VA Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
 - Ranking Member John Carter (R-TX)

*Indicates Change From 116th Congress

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 20

Senate

- Senate Armed Services Committee
 - Chairman Jack Reed (D-RI)*
 - Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK)*
- Senate Appropriations Committee
 - Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT)*
 - Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL)*
- Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Chairman John Tester (D-MT)*
 - Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL)*
- Military Construction/VA Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Chairman Martin Heinrich (D-NM)*
 - Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR)*

*Indicates Change From 116th Congress

Defense Issues in the 116th Congress:

- January 25th – President Biden reversed the prohibition on transgender individuals serving in the military.
- Southwest Border Emergency Declaration – Ended on February 11th. No longer a legal mechanism to divert DOD funding to border issues.
- Base Renaming – FY21 NDAA, Section 370, provides the DOD with 3 years to rename installations and other infrastructure bearing the names of Confederate Generals. Expect it to happen sooner.
- Nuclear Weapon Modernization – Significant disagreement over funding amounts for nuclear weapon modernization, primarily within the Air Force.
- Authorization of the Use of Military Force (AUMF) – Whether to repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF.
- Modernization funding for all branches of the military to include Navy fleet size.
- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

FY22 Budget:

- The President's Budget is not expected to be ready until late-April or early-May. Rumor is May 3rd.
- This will be the first budget/appropriations cycle that is not subject to the Budget Control Act in 10 years.
- Expect defense spending to flatten or slightly decrease.
- Secretary Austin provided some NC specific budget insight in response to written questions Senator Tillis submitted:
 - "The Army remains committed to ensuring Pope Army Airfield can support all deployment missions. In Fiscal Year 2021, the Army is funding a \$90M project to make critical improvements to the primary runway and lighting system."

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 21

- “The Army has also identified future requirements to improve the airfield, totaling \$224M in Military Construction, as well as in Restoration and Modernization funding. These requirements will be a priority for funding within the Army’s Facility Investment Plan.”

One Big Question for the 117th Congress:

Will Congress authorize a BRAC?

- Bottom Line Up Front: A new BRAC round is likely to be authorized this Congress (2021-2022).
 - FY23 NDAA most likely.
- President Biden has previously stated that he is supportive of a new BRAC round.
- Senate Armed Service Committee Chairman Jack Reed (D-RI) has publicly stated he supports a BRAC and has supported legislation to authorize a new BRAC round.
- House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) has publicly stated he supports a BRAC and has supported legislation to authorize a new BRAC round.
- Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was asked about BRAC in advance policy questions.
- Secretary Austin said, “If confirmed, I will work with my senior advisors and the Military Department leaders to determine whether authorization for a BRAC round is something to consider in the future as we shape priorities.”
- Opponents of another BRAC, mainly Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), are now in the minority with less ability to stop the process from moving forward.

News & Observer Opinion Section – February 16, 2021

- Op-Ed by Frederico Bartels, Senior Policy Analyst, Heritage Foundation.
- Advocates for a new BRAC Round on the basis of budgetary savings.
- Key Quotes:
 - “But there may be some light at the end of the BRAC tunnel. The confirmation of a new deputy secretary of defense, Kathleen Hicks, brings a defense leader who has publicly advocated for another round of base realignments and closures to help the department become more efficient.”
 - “In the advance policy questions Hicks received from Congress prior to her hearings, she was asked about BRAC. She said it is important to maintain what makes the process work. “The key will be maintaining the essence of the BRAC process by treating all installations equally, (... having) an independent Commission (and keeping) the priority of military value,” she said.”

The Decision Makers:

President Joe Biden

- “Were I president, I would ask the Congress for a base closure review, but any base closures recommended, I would have to be assured communities are completely taken care of,” Biden told the *San Antonio Express-News*, December 13, 2019
- “I would support a commission that looked at excess capacity, consolidated capacity, as well as base closures,” Biden said.

Chairman Jack Reed (D-RI) - Senate Armed Services Committee

“You can’t operate at this level and not find savings, and it’s their responsibility to come up with some

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 22

savings,” Reed, of Rhode Island, told reporters. “I’d seriously look at a BRAC, if they propose it,” using an acronym for the base realignment and closure process. – *Defense News*, March 2, 2018

- “DoD is throwing its support behind an amendment to authorize BRAC by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-R.I.).” – *Federal News Network*, Sept. 5, 2017

Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) - House Armed Services Committee

- “This report shows that the case for authorizing a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is extremely strong, even if we plan to substantially increase the size of the military.” *Press Release, Rep. Adam Smith*, Oct 18, 2017
- “It is time to do what is right for defense and move forward with this process,” Smith said. “We should not be wasting hard-earned taxpayer money to maintain excess infrastructure that DoD has determined it does not need.” *Association of the United States Army*, Jan. 30, 2017
- Offered a 95-page amendment to the FY15 NDAA to authorize a BRAC in 2017. The amendment failed.

How will a 2023-2027 BRAC be different?

- Space Force – New branch of the military with no bases of their own...yet.
 - Strong focus on climate change and the threat it poses to military installations.
 - Top 10 Air Force Bases at risk of “weather impacts.” → → → → → →
 - Increased focus on green energy and energy resiliency.
 - Enhanced focus on military value as it relates to the INDOPACOM area of responsibility
 - Legacy technology missions versus next generation technology missions.
- Ex. F-16 v. F-35

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>State</u>
1	Vandenberg AFB	California
2	Eglin AFB	Florida
3	Hurlburt Field	Florida
4	Patrick AFB	Florida
5	Joint Base Charleston	South Carolina
6	Dover AFB	Delaware
7	Homestead AFB	Florida
8	MacDill AFB	Florida
9	Tyndall AFB	Florida
10	Joint Base Langley-Eustis	Virginia

Additional Information:

What is the Process?

- The Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate have jurisdiction over BRAC, and they authorize it through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by amending the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.

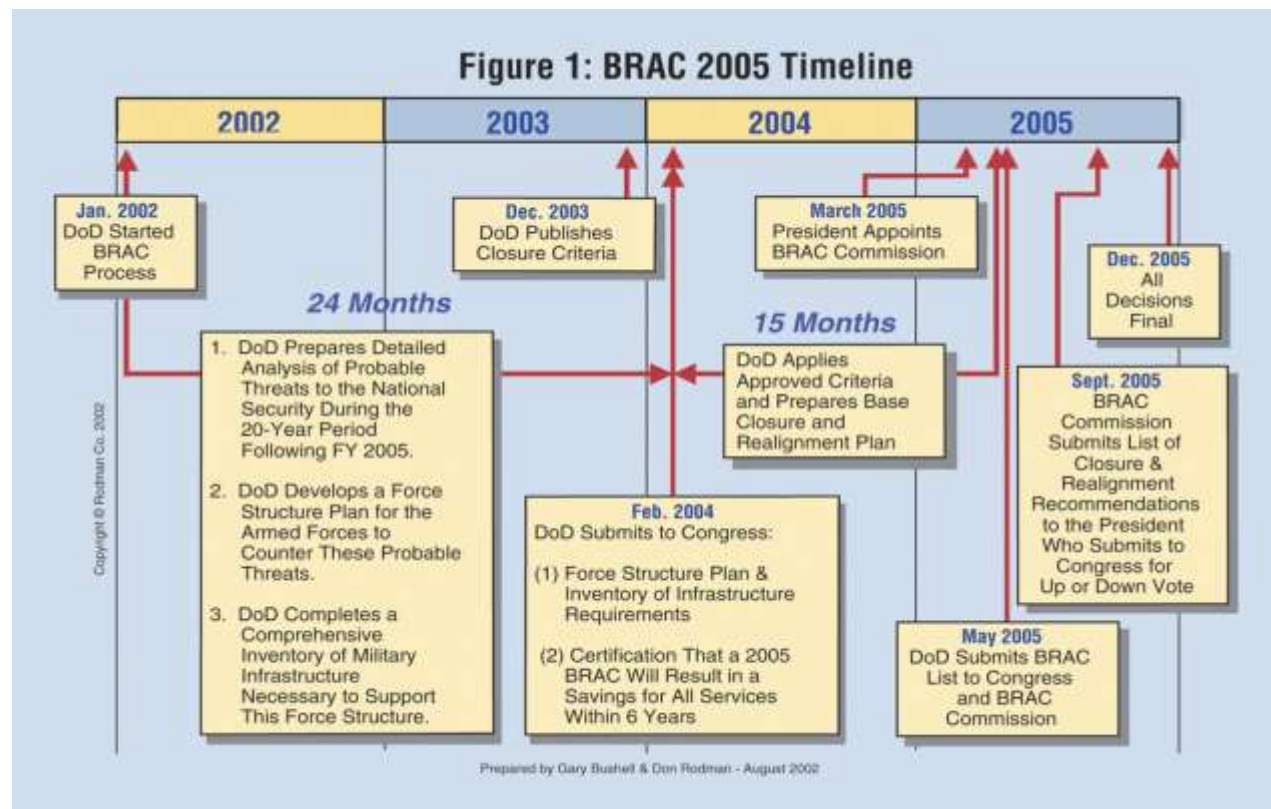
Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission

February 16, 2021

Page 23

- The legislation contains a framework of elements that entrusts an independent commission with certifying closure and realignment recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense.
- Requires the Secretary to submit a list of military installations recommended for closure or realignment to an independent, bipartisan BRAC commission.
- After analyzing the Secretary's recommendations, the commission may accept, reject, or modify the list.
- Upon completing its review, the commission forwards its final findings and recommendations to the President.
- Upon acceptance of commission's recommendations, the President then submits them to Congress.
- If the President does not submit the recommendations to Congress within the timeframe required under the Base Closure Act, the BRAC process is terminated.
- Upon receipt of the report from the President, Congress can disapprove of the recommendations *in toto* through the enactment of a joint resolution.

2005 BRAC Process:



Commission Framework:

The Framework of a BRAC Commission includes:

- Establishment of an independent commission whose members are appointed by the President, in consultation with congressional leadership (and the advice and consent of the Senate).
- Reliance on objective and uniform criteria for evaluating basing recommendations;
- GAO review and certification of DOD
- Deliberations that include open hearings, solicitation of feedback, installation visits, and data available for public review;
- Requirement that the commission's final list of closure and realignment actions be accepted or rejected in its entirety; and
- Presidential and congressional *off-ramps* that would terminate the BRAC process when certain conditions are not met.

Key milestones of a typical BRAC timeline include:

- DOD force structure plan, infrastructure inventory, and analysis of options;
- Nomination and confirmation of BRAC commissioners;
- DOD submission of BRAC recommendations (and associated reports) to the commission;
- Commission deliberations (typically four months);
- Final report sent to the President for approval;
- 45-day deadline for Congress to reject recommendations in their entirety (Joint Resolution of Disapproval) or allow implementation to begin;
- DOD implementation (two years to begin; six years to complete); and
- DOD disposal of real property (indeterminate).

Appointing the BRAC Commission:

The 2005 BRAC Commission had nine Commissioners instead of eight.

- President reserved three appointments instead of two
 - Rationale when introduced: "prevent tie votes" (which were historically rare)
- Other appointments were made by:
 - Speaker of the House (two)
 - House Minority Leader (one)
 - Senate Majority Leader (two)
 - Senate Minority Leader (one)

Traditionally Chairs and Ranking Members of Armed Services Committee, Defense Appropriations Subcommittees are consulted.

Selection Criteria:

SEC. 2913. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR 2005 ROUND.

- (a) FINAL SELECTION CRITERIA.—The final criteria to be used by the Secretary in making recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations inside the United States under this part in 2005 shall be the military value and other criteria specified in subsections (b) and (c).
- (b) MILITARY VALUE CRITERIA.—The military value criteria are as follows:
 -

- (1) The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the total force of the Department of Defense, *including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness.*
- (2) The availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace (*including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions*) at both existing and potential receiving locations.
- (3) The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, *surge*, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations *to support operations and training.*
- (4) The cost of *operations* and the manpower implications.
- (c). OTHER CRITERIA.—The other criteria that the Secretary shall use in making recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations inside the United States under this part in 2005 are as follows:
 - (1) The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.
 - (2) The economic impact on *existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.*
 - (3) The ability of the infrastructure of both the existing and potential receiving communities to support forces, missions, and personnel.
 - (4) The environmental impact, *including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.*

How Communities Protect Themselves Proactive Base Enhancement:

Base Infrastructure

- Military construction
- Facility Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM)
- Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP)

Base Workload & Utilization Issues

- Core mission activities
- Other command-directed workload
- Utilization of technical & specialty facilities
- Private sector
- Tenants

Cross Servicing and Emerging Missions

- Cross service mission opportunities
- Joint service ventures
- New mission orientation (e.g., homeland defense)

Neighboring Development

- Encroachment issues
- Synergistic area development

Miscellaneous Needs & Opportunities

- Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)

Preparing for a Future BRAC:

- Gaining support of community for the long-term effort
- Briefing leadership on the new threat environment
- Conducting updated analysis of installation strengths, weakness, opportunities, & threats
- Protecting installation projects and priorities through completion of FY 2022 defense legislation
- Preparing for new educational liaison activities with DoD/Service leadership
- Gaining support of community for the long-term effort
- Briefing leadership on the new threat environment
- Conducting updated analysis of installation strengths, weakness, opportunities, & threats
- Protecting installation projects and priorities through completion of FY 2022 defense legislation
- Preparing for new educational liaison activities with DoD/Service leadership

Case Study: Fort Knox, KY:

- In the months leading up to the release of the 2005 BRAC list publication, we learned the Army intended to move the Armor School* from Fort Knox to Fort Benning, GA, and that Knox was being considered for closure.
- We worked with Kentucky's Congressional Delegation to encourage the Army to preserve Fort Knox and find new missions for the installation.
- Through a concerted team effort at the local, state, and federal level, Fort Knox was saved and gained several new missions, including:
- 7 New Commands that included Army Human Resources Command, Army Accessions Command* and Army Cadet Command.
- Overall impact of the 2005 BRAC Round to Kentucky was:
 - 5,000+ military and civilian jobs
 - \$254M increase in employment payroll
 - \$500+M in new MILCON
 - \$20+M in annual state tax revenue
- Result: Due to good intelligence and prompt advocacy, Fort Knox stayed off the closure list and instead gained missions

*In 2011 the Army moved the Armor School to Fort Benning and in 2012, Army Accessions Command was closed and folded into TRADOC.

Case Study: Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD

- 2005 BRAC Commission recommended the closure of Ellsworth AFB and transfer of their fleet of B-1 bombers.
- In addition to analyzing the capabilities of Ellsworth AFB, we also researched the proposed receiver base for the B-1 aircraft, Dyess AFB, TX.
- We demonstrated that the move would result in greater costs, not savings.
- Further, we argue that the USAF methodology undervalued the importance of having range airspace suited to B-1 training.
- Finally, through extensive research, we found federal litigation and an injunction against USAF that prohibited low-level training flights at Dyess AFB.
- These factors were cited by the BRAC Commission to overturn USAF's recommendation.

Result: Ellsworth AFB is currently open and operating. It has also been selected as a bed down site for USAF's newest bomber, the B-21, which will replace both the B-1 and B-2 fleets.

NATIONAL GUARD UPDATE: BRIAN PIERCE

Mission:

On order, the North Carolina National Guard's Always Ready-Ready Team deploys military capabilities, in support of State and/or National authorities, in order to protect the lives and properties of fellow Citizens, defend the State and Nation, and secure our American way of life.

Vision:

The North Carolina National Guard is the most Ready, Reliable, Responsive, and Relevant military force for our State and Nation.

People, Infrastructure & Equipment:

One of North Carolina's Largest Employers with \$429 Million in annual Economic Impact

Total Employed	11,495
Total Payroll	\$233,325,965
Other Fed. Funds	\$195,582,412

Army and Air National Guard	
Soldiers & Airmen:	11,145
State Employees	260
Contract Employees:	90

Full Time manning (military)

Army & Air	AGR:	991
Army Technicians		974
Air Technicians		277
Total Full Time Military Staff: 2,300		
(21% of total force)		

Significant North Carolina Infrastructure

\$1.2 Billion in Infrastructure Value

- Joint Force Headquarters Complex
- 83 Army Guard Readiness Centers
- 2 Air Guard Bases
- Camp Butner Training Complex
- Tarheel Youth Challenge Academies (Salemberg, Stanly County)
- 139th Regional Training Institute at Fort Bragg
- Fort Bragg Maintenance Facilities
- Over 5,800 Acres of Land

Over \$4.71 Billion in Military Equipment

for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 28

Where We Are:

- 83 Army National Guard Armories
- Two Air National Guard Locations
- Fort Fisher
- Camp Butner
- Personnel
 - Traditional Soldiers and Airmen: Approximately 11,145
 - Full-Time Employees: Approximately 2,300 (military and civilian)

Domestic Operations:

- Command & Control
- Communications and Cyber
- Transportation
- Security
- CBRNE/WMD
- Logistics
- Engineering
- Aviation
- Air Life and Medical Support
- Power Generation

World Projection Power from 2002-2020:

- More than 23,000 NC Army and Air Guard men and women have Mobilized for World Deployment since September 11, 2001.
- Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Horn of Africa, Oman, Southern US Border, GITMO-Cuba, Eastern Europe, Antarctica, Kuwait, Egypt, Cambodia, Central and South America, Jordan, Syria, Kosovo, Bosnia, Qatar.

Adding Value to our Communities:

- Community Relations
- Starbase
- Tarheel Challenge
- Community Civil Military Engineer Support Training
- State Partnership Program

Title 10 Mobilizations:

Current Deployment:

- Det 1/B/2-151 AVN 01 OCT 20 (Demob: Sep21)
- 136 CH DET 13 Nov 20 (Demob: Oct21)

Current Operations:

- Pre-NOS for 2-130 AOB (AFRICOM-FY23 and C/1-131 AV (Fort Belvoir – FY23)

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 29

Future Operations:

- 130 Military History Detachment Mobilization (AUG 21)

Operations Spartan Shield:

30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

COL Robert H. Bumgardner & CSM Elmer M. Harmon

Raleigh Shield:

Approximately 450 Guardsmen were mobilized in June 2020 due to civil unrest. The Guard continues to support local authorities and help safeguard the lives and property of North Carolinians and the ability for individual to exercise their right to peaceful protest.

145th Airlift Wing Support to Inauguration:

National Guard Soldiers de-board a C-17 Globemaster III, assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, upon arrival to Joint Base Andrews, MD, January 15, 2021. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from numerous states traveled to Washington, DC, to support federal and district authorities leading up to the 59th presidential inauguration.

NCARNG Support to Inauguration:

At the request of federal authorities, 300 Army North Carolina National Guard personnel assisted civil authorities and local law enforcement at the nation's capital before and during the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021.

North Carolina National Guard COVID-19 Response:

- Food Distribution:
 - Food Bank Meals: 7.6M
 - School Lunches: 332K
- PPE Distribution:
 - Masks: 4.3M
 - Hand Sanitizers: 1.6M
 - Gloves: 7.9M
 - Face Shields: 766K
 - Gowns: 234K
 - Shoe Covers: 707K
 - Thermometers: 21K
- NC Guardsmen on Duty: 583 on duty, down from 840 during peak response
- COVID-19 Vaccinations: 63.8K
- Supported testing of 63K Citizens
- Pounds of Cargo Delivered: 18.6M
- Miles Driven: 224K

FORT BRAGG GARRISON COMMANDER: COLONEL SCOTT PENCE

Colonel Pence said he was glad to be here with everyone today. He is the Garrison Commander at Fort

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 30

Bragg and has been there since September. There are some Senior Commander's at Fort Bragg such as General Kurilla and has been there since December of 2019 but the Deputy Garrison Commander switched out last year and that was Justin Mitchell. The new Deputy Garrison Commander is Kevin Griess and just came in last week from Germany. The former Command Sergeant Major was Lohmeyer, and the new Command Sergeant Major is Loehr. So, they have a new Command team. The things that are going on at Fort Bragg are they have 48,414 Active Duty personnel. That is mainly US Army, some US Air Force, and a few Navy and Marine personnel. We also have some Service Components from other Countries. Of these Active Duty personnel, we have selected Commands such as the 82nd Airborne Division and the 18th Airborne Corps. We also have the FORSCOM Headquarters for the US Army and the US Army Reserve Command. We also have the 30th ESC Support Command and with the SOOC Command we have a three main command which is JFK Special Warfare Commands, S Fac which are advisors and the Headquarters for all of the US Army Civil Affairs. One of the challenges that they have at Fort Bragg is that Fort Bragg is the largest US Army Post by personnel but not the largest in acreage. They struggle in the training areas with maneuverability and live fire training. Also, since Fayetteville is growing they have an issue with encroachment. They do not have any showstoppers with this now, but they are keeping their eye on encroachment. They are working with their community partners to ensure that their environmental standards are maintained, and the developers are not moving too close to their fence line. They have over 171,000 acres and training land. Not the most training land of any post so every acre, is very important to them. They are extending their maximum effective ranges of their squadron automatic weapons and their primary rifles from 300 meters to 600 meters. This is for the requirements on their live fire ranges. That will eat up even more of their maneuver training areas because they will have to back up live fire ranges and that encroaches on their own land. One other issue of note is their recent IGSA with NC Department of Transportation. This is a huge development. On Fort Bragg they have 1462 lane miles of road. In weather like this, those roads take a beating. It will cost them about \$1M per mile to repair these roads themselves. What this IGSA does is allow the roads to be repaired at \$600,000 per mile which is a cost savings of 40%. This has been a project in the works for a while since COL Funck was the Garrison Commander about 6 years ago. He is just now signing the paperwork for this IGSA. The bottom line for Fayetteville, Spring Lake, Hope Mills, Pinehurst, and Southern Pines communities, the local economic impact is \$7.6 B annually and estimated at \$21 M daily. One of the biggest projects they are doing is the Pope Army Airfield. They have a \$90 M project to repave the surface at Pope Army Airfield which is a critical piece of their projection platform. This has been in the works for years. This new paving that will happen this summer (May -Sept) will be paved with cement. That will extend the life of the runway to a 50 year life span. This is a separate project that was talked about in 2016 to extend the runway. That has been put off until 2026-2027. So, we are currently repaving and upgrading the airfield for operations. This is being contracted through the Savannah Corps of Engineers. They have vaccinated over 20,000 personnel in the last month. They have moved quickly from the first responders to the mission essential personnel. Once they get more vials they will be able to vaccinate over 5000 per day. They are using both indoor and outdoor facilities as vaccination sites. He also mentioned the NC Tyrant Hunter and said he appreciated the comments from the NCCC on this matter.

Pope Field Runway and Taxiway Repair:

Project Information:

Scope: The scope of work includes removal and replacement of existing electrical equipment, including

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 31

airfield lighting and airfield lighting vault equipment, and the reconstruction of Runway 05-23, and the North and South Taxiways of Pope Army Airfield, Ft. Bragg, NC.

Period of Performance:

Runway 05-23 – 360 days (runway closure 120 days) South Taxiway – Additional 180 days – Bid Option 2
North Taxiway – Additional 180 days – Bid Option 3

Total duration if all options awarded – 720 days

Milestones:

- 100% Design for Construction delivered 6/16/20
- Signed 1391 received 7/28/20
- Solicitation to begin 8/28/20
- Funding with USACE 10/7/20
- Bids received 10/23/20
- Awarded 11/3/20.
- Notice To Proceed issued on 11/20/20, then Mobilization begun.
- [Airfield Closure scheduled to start 6/15/21](#)
- [Airfield Re-opening estimated on 10/13/21](#)

Status::

- Mandatory change to replace 2 lighting fixtures on landing zone per UFC requirement.
- Contractor's initial schedule approved.
- Contractor installing erosion control at the batch plant site.
- Land disturbance permit Approved.
- Coordinating for pre-airfield closure work.
- Temporary Access Point to be available on 16 Feb 21.

NC MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION BRIEFING: KIRK WARNER

Chairman Martin said that the Commission has a PowerPoint presentation that any of the members can use if they are asked to give a presentation about the NC Military Affairs Commission and the good work that the Commission does. He has asked Kirk Warner to give this presentation to the Commission members today. Kirk Warner said that his is an easy presentation to give and you can tailor it to the group you are speaking to.

Goal for NC – be the most military friendly state in the country

Approach - Working together in partnership to strengthen NC's military presence and economic impact.

North Carolina's Military Presence is Unrivaled and has a Dramatic Impact on our State's Security, Economy, and our Way of Life.

- th **4 highest active duty military presence**
- 6 major installations (5 DoD/1 DHS)
 - 116 NC National Guard facilities
 - 40 Army Reserve facilities statewide
 - 123,000 Active, Guard and Reserve personnel

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 32

- Over 50% of Special Operations Forces

Total Annual Military Impact:

578,000 Military supported jobs across the State

- 119,000 federal government jobs
- 72,087 state and local jobs
- 386,475 private industry jobs

66.0 Billion Of Gross State Product

- General Defense \$62.5 B
- Military Pensions \$3.5 B

33.7 Billion of Personal Income

Military Veterans received more than \$7.4 B in pensions, medical care and other support from the DoD and VA in 2017

Total Annual Military Impact:

Second only to Agriculture, North Carolina's Defense Economy Impacts Businesses Across the State

- 12% of NC's economic activity – Gross State Product
- Nearly \$30B comes to NC from the US Department of Defense
- \$30B in Personal Income, \$66B in Gross State Product
- Defense contracts in FY2019 :
 - Prime contracts: \$4.66 billion
 - Subcontracts: additional billions*
- Prime Contracts in NC: federal (98 Counties); DoD (80 Counties)

NC Veteran Population:

698,193 Veterans across the state (6.7% of the state population)

Veterans represent a large and skilled labor pool

201,624 veterans less than 50 years old

10,000+ annual transitions (exiting military) in NC

In 2019, Veteran unemployment was 3.1% (lowest in 19 years)

NCMAC Purpose:

Sustaining and enhancing the current military posture in the state while pursuing opportunities to expend the military missions and economic impact on North Carolina.

Strategic Communications and Advocacy:

Promote the value of the military and supporting entities at the federal, state, and local levels in order to sustain, enhance and protect our military installations and missions.

Functions of the Commission:

- NC "Clearing House" for State related military issues in NC
- Directly assist the military installations by coordinating with commanders, communities

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 33

- and state and federal agencies on top issues and priorities that may require State level assistance
- Coordinate issues and actions with State Agencies, the NC General Assembly, and other military related organizations in NC.
- Assist the NC General Assembly to evaluate proposed legislation
- Lead the BRAC preparation effort for North Carolina
- Support economic development initiatives, especially those with dual purpose, such as “Feed and Fuel the Forces”

NCMACs 4 Pillars:

- **Installation & Mission Sustainability:** Promote, enhance, and protect North Carolina’s existing military installations and missions.
- **Economic Development:** Increase the economic viability and impact of the military and defense industry in North Carolina.
- **Quality of Life:** Improve the quality of life for military servicemembers, veterans and their families.
- **Legislative & State Agency Coordination:** Provide legislative and state agency coordination for military-related issues.

Installation & Mission Sustainability:

Strategic Goal: Promote, enhance, and protect North Carolina’s existing military installations and missions.

2020 Priorities:

1. Encroachment
2. Ongoing Viability and Utilization
3. Community Installation Resilience
4. Infrastructure and Services
5. New Mission, Cyber and Technological Development

Installation & Mission Sustainability:

2020 Implementation Recommendations:

1. Coordinate with Department of Commerce.
2. Develop a brief which explains the aviation training requirements.
3. Review and provide input into Sentinel Landscape.
4. Support the installations management of their Training areas.
5. Coordinate with the NC Commander’s Council (NCCC).
6. Advocate for new military missions with the NC federal delegation.
7. Develop in coordination with the NCCC and host communities.

Economic Development – Military & Defense Industry:

Strategic Goal: Increase the economic viability and impact of the military and defense industry in North Carolina.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 34

2020 Priorities:

1. Defense Industry Growth
2. Workforce Development
3. Economic, Technological and Higher Education Partnership Expansion

Economic Development – Military & Defense Industry:

2020 Implementation Recommendations:

1. Defense Industry Growth:
Resource a Regional Defense Industry Review/Study
Resource Transitioning Military Talent Study
Capitalize on recent Cluster Study
2. Work Force Development:
Career-Focused Hiring Events
Bragg Fayetteville Transition Center Research
NC State Tax Exemption for Military Retirees
3. Economic, Technological and Higher Education Partnership Expansion:
Promote a Public/Private Unmanned Aircraft System Partnerships
Micro Zones
Develop a Systems Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP) Training

Quality of Life (QOL):

Strategic Goal: Improve the quality of life for military servicemembers, veterans and their families.

2020 Priorities:

1. K-12 Education
2. Adequate Housing
3. Spousal, Dependent Servicemember Opportunities and Challenges
4. Resiliency
5. Transitioning Support

Quality of Life (QOL):

2020 Implementation Recommendations:

1. Promote Purple Star Award.
2. Support and Leverage remote early/distant school registration.
3. Revitalize Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3).
4. Advocate for K-12 military children's programs and educational initiatives.
5. Advance legislation to create additional military liaison officers & DPI coordinators.
6. Address affordable and adequate housing needs on and off Installations.
7. Work to assure academic credits for military training & experience at higher education institutions and certifying boards for military & spouses.
8. Engage Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's) and Installation Commands to provide resiliency programs to address mental health & behavioral needs.
9. Support Permanent Change of Station (PCS) transition and unique quality of life issues raised by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) & NC Commander's Council (NCCC) due to COVID-19 measures.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 35

Legislative & State Agency Coordination:

Strategic Goal: Provide legislative and state agency coordination for military-related issues.

2020 Priorities:

1. Preservation
2. National Guard
3. Coordination
4. Partnerships
5. State & Federal Focus

Legislative & State Agency Coordination:

2020 Implementation Recommendations:

1. Advocate for re-introduction and Passage of Senate Bill 706 and House companion bill addressing Education Changes for Military Connected Students.
2. Advocate for re-introduction and passage of Senate Bill 188 and House companion bill addressing Military State Income Tax Relief.
3. Support and promote expansion of the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) initiated grant programs that foster base and community partnerships.
4. Advocate for stronger defense business input state legislative and Executive governance decision-making. Support the survey of their challenges as well as opportunities in need of support.
5. Assist Base Sustainability Committee in development and delivery of a military mission footprint primer for delivery to the North Carolina General Assembly as well as Cabinet level officers.

Strategic Communications & Advocacy:

Strategic Goal: Promote the value of the military and supporting entities at the federal, state, and local levels in order to sustain enhance and project our military installations and missions.

2020 Priorities:

1. Strategic Communications Plan
2. Committee Coordination
3. Regional Benefits
4. Education
5. Overarching Organizations

Strategic Communications & Advocacy:

2020 Implementation Recommendations:

1. Strategic Communications Committee submit recommendations to NCMAC for approval, of communications objectives.
2. Strategic Communications Committee delineate and prioritize specific messages, audiences and if possible, potential mediums that can advance North Carolina's economic interests for approval by the greater NCMAC. First priority the NC Citizens. Educate citizens on the value of the major Military installations to North Carolina. Goal is to gain their broad support of the NCMAC installation sustainability initiatives.
3. Strategic Communications Committee prepare a Request for Information for widest promulgation to the corporate communication industries to solicit specific information and proposals. Since NCMAC does not contain resident expertise in this particular industrial sector.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 36

(Communications/Marketing/Public Relations, etc.) the Military Affairs Commission needs to educate itself on the options – First

Military Affairs Commission Process:

BRAC Preparation:

- NCMAC designated by the NC General Assembly to lead the State's preparation for the next round of BRAC
- State allocated \$1 million annually for BRAC preparation
 - Military Presence Stabilization Fund
 - Coordinating BRAC preparation efforts:
 - Working with regional and community organizations
 - Evaluate prior BRAC scoring and changes that could affect future actions
 - Recommend actions to maximize opportunities and minimize losses through ongoing analysis of military Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of installations

Military Presence Stabilization Funds (BRAC) Authorization:

- Local community or installations grants (\$≤225,000)
- Administrative expenses and reimbursements
- Federal advocacy and lobbying support
- Updates to strategic planning analysis and strategic plan
- Economic impact analysis
- Public-public/public-private initiatives
- Identification of implementation of innovative measure to increase the value of installations
- Fully fund the position at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC)

Summary:

- The NC Military Affairs Commission advises the Governor, the NC General Assembly and State Agencies on protecting and promoting the military and military missions in NC.
- The only State commission whose membership represents communities, installation commanders, state agencies and education and coordinates military related issues with these entities.
- Serves as a “clearing house” on military issues and interests

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Martin asked if there was any other business for the Commission? Arnold Gordon-Bray said that he has found out lately is that there are numerous African American Cemeteries across the State and one in North Carolina where Veterans have been buried before they were allowed to be buried in a State Cemetery and National Cemetery. He wanted to know if anyone knows about these Cemeteries and more importantly are there any provisions to help restore these locations where you have Veterans that are buried in the forest? He has found one in Rocky Mount, NC. He wants to know if anyone has any expertise on this matter that can help him to plow through this discussion. Representative

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting NC Military Affairs Commission
February 16, 2021
Page 37

Cleveland asked if he was talking about a private cemetery or what kind of cemetery? In years past there were some private cemeteries surveyed, but he does not know what happened with that. Arnold Gordon-Bray said it was private cemeteries and the graves go back to as early as 1905. Chairman Martin asked Arnold Gordon-Bray to talk to Sec Gaskin and his Department. He will also link up with Jane Campbell from the Veterans Affairs Commission. Arnold Gordon-Bray said for the next three months they are taking the second Saturday of each month to work on that cemetery. The members of the town are doing a great job to help with this matter. There are some Veterans in this cemetery and also Senator Wimby. Sec Gaskin said that we are aware of these Veterans and the Cemeteries that need to be reclaimed. Chairman Martin said that the Department will get with Arnold Gordon-Bray about this matter. ET Mitchell said that in this time of division across the Nation, everything we can do to bring our African Americans, who were not allowed in the Veterans cemeteries at one time, we need to make progress on this matter. She would like to participate on this matter if possible. Sec Gaskin said that we will definitely address this matter and there are two areas that we need to address. To have these loved ones moved to a Veteran cemetery or address the area that they are buried in and given the proper head stone. That is one of the things that are on our list. ET Mitchell said that they found a number of Veteran monuments in Craven County but only the White Veterans are listed on those monuments. She finds that greatly offensive. Arnold Gordon-Bray said that his is not universal. You will find that there are places across the South where there are head stones from 1918. He found this cemetery, but he is sure that it is no unique. He appreciates the support on this matter.

David Myers said that he attended a meeting earlier today with a Department of the Veterans Affairs that dealt with specifically marking unmarked veteran graveyards. He has one of these graveyards in his town of Madison, NC and there are about 30-50 veteran that are buried at this graveyard. It is called the Citizen Cemetery. This graveyard is all African American veterans and from the 1850's. He has spoken to the State and they said that they did not have any money to assist them with the upkeep of this graveyard. It is a private cemetery and is owned by two sisters that are now in their 90's. The City or County does not have any ownership of this cemetery. He knows that Ken Hopper (R) Colonel who has the Marine Reserve Directorship and he may be of some help. He also talked to a lady this morning that could be of assistance. He can share their contact information if anyone wants to reach out to them.

Chairman Martin said that this was also great information. He also thanked the Commission members for their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the Executive Director, Kelly Jackson and Secretary Gaskin and his team for the work that is being done to support the NC Military Affairs Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Martin thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 4:04 pm.