



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 2nd Quarter Meeting of the NC Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC)

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, via Microsoft Teams/Conference number

984-204-1487/Code 913 201 359#

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Hon Grier Martin, Public Member
Rep. George Cleveland, NCGA
Hon Will Lewis, 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
David "Crockett" Long, Public Member
Julie Daniels, Seymour Johnson AFB

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Col Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired, Cherry Point
MG Edward Reeder, USA, Retired, Fort Bragg
Hon Chuck Allen, Seymour Johnson AFB
SgtMaj William Hatcher, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune
Rep John Bell, NCGA (Non-voting)
Wesley Meredith, Fort Bragg
Senator Norman Sanderson, NCGA (Non-voting)
Hon Harry Brown, NCGA

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS:

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Kathie Sidner, UNC System
Dewitt Hardee, NC Agriculture
Secretary Eric Hooks

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

John Bigger, Cape Fear Valley Medical
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Chad Sydnor, Cassidy & Associates
Ed Turlington, Brooks Pierce
Michael Scalise, MCI-East
Doug Taggart, DPI
Brian Pierce, NC National Guard
Manley James, Selective Service
Jamie Norment, ACT
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
Tammy Everett, DANC
PJ Connelly, Hometown Strong
Dennis Goodson, Seymour Johnson
Marc Finlayson, ACT
Donna Grady,
Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg CYS/SLO

Cristy Barnes-Williams
Howard Lattimore, Fort Bragg Schools
Keith Martin, MECC
Rhonda Murray
COL Will Arnold, MOTSU
Commander Brook Sherman, USCG

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DMVA:

Ariel Aponte
Greg Bethea
Chris Moore
Kelly Jackson

Jim McCleskey, Governor's office
Christopher Hailey, LA Grier Martin
Senator Michael Lazzara
CSM James McKee, NCNG
Steven Kerr, MOTSU
Malcolm Charles, MOTSU
David Ham
Mark Patton
Ethan Brogden
Kevin Arata, City of Fayetteville
Mark Pickett, NCNG
Monica Fuller
Tom Anderson
Jeff DeBellis, Commerce
Joshua Levy, Commerce
Jennifer Mundt
Jeremy Tarr, Office of the Governor
Brittany Conrad

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 may or may not arise or potentially arise with your regular job or any of your business while on 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 1st Quarter 2021 NCMAC meeting minutes dated February 16, 2021. A motion was made by Kirk Warner and seconded by David Hayden 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) said that he wanted to mention three things. First of all, they have the Southeast Region Federal and Defense Textile Symposium going on right now. It is a three day virtual event. It involves the Defense Logistics Agency, clothing and textiles, PE US Army and PEO Soldier and speakers from the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force all presenting on future acquisitions for clothing, uniforms and unit and individual equipment. On August 4, they will have the North Carolina Defense Trade Show & Cybersecurity Forum. That will be held at Fayetteville Tech and Co-Hosted with Senators

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Burr and Tills. It will be a live and in-person event. This will be an important event with the cybersecurity forum. The third item is that the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation, which is the sister board of the NC Military Affairs Commission and which he is a member of has launched a defense innovation task force to evaluate the opportunity to include Department of Defense (DoD) research and development and other defense innovation in North Carolina as a way to expand our defense economy in the state. He will be chairing that task force that will be made up of about 15-20 members from various agencies and industries and they will make a report to the full board of Science, Technology, and Innovation by their August meeting about recommendations for strategies and actions to increase defense related innovation and research and development in North Carolina. He will encourage his Board to share that report or give a presentation at a future NC Military Affairs Commission meeting. This will overlap with the Commission's goal to increase the defense economy on North Carolina. There were no questions for Scott Dorney. Scott Dorney said that Defense Alliance of NC (DANC) is a partner in the DefTech event and appreciate the opportunity to partner with them.

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

Secretary Walter Gaskin said good afternoon to the Commission members and colleagues. He is here today to give an update on his Department. We have been very busy this quarter and the General Assembly is back in session, and we are engaged with them on a daily basis. The Department is actively tracking approximately 40 pieces of legislation that would impact our constituents or the agency itself in some way. As the budget process continues to play out, we will be advocating for the military members and veterans of North Carolina, and their families, and the issues that impact them, and frankly, all of us. That is why our advocacy does not stop at the installation gates—we know that quality of life issues is paramount in considerations around base realignment. That is why we have adopted a holistic approach to the issues, working with the Department of Public Instruction and local education boards, the Department of Environmental Quality (DENCR), and other partners in state and local government to advance the legislative and policy goals of the Department. Across the Department we are easing back into a more “normal” routine as vaccine rates rise and covid-19 cases fall. We have been working with our nursing home service provider to get residents vaccinated, and even conducted 3 clinics at each of our homes. Our resident vaccination rate fluctuates slightly as residents and staff come and go, but we are holding fairly steadily around 90% for residents and half of the staff. We face challenges in encouraging State Veterans Nursing Home staff to get vaccinated, just like all the State agencies, but we will continue to push for a full vaccination rate from the Department level. Veterans Stand Downs are starting up again after the disruption caused by the pandemic; there were 6 last month alone. These events helped more than 300 homeless veterans take advantage of Veteran Affairs services, mental health screenings, employment assistance and donated supplies including toiletries, shoes, linens, and backpacks. An estimated 130 COVID-19 vaccines were delivered as well. This quarter, the Veterans Affairs Commission selected 388 students in NC to receive the Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans, which is awarded and administered through our Department. This scholarship is earned by children who have suffered some tragedy in their life, related through the service contributions of their family. It is one of my top priorities to ensure that this program is not only fully funded, but well-structured and sustainable well into the 21st century. Our State Veterans Home program is expanding. We are on track to open a new state of the art facility in Kernersville later this summer that

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will house 120 beds and we are currently right in the middle of the bid opening for a facility in Raleigh as well. Since I was appointed to my position by Governor Cooper, I have made it a point to visit our major military installations across North Carolina and, so far, have been to each one except Cherry Point, where I will be later this month. North Carolina is proud of our reputation as the most military friendly state in the nation, and rightfully so. I intend to strengthen our unique relationship with the Armed Forces. In my travels to each of the installations, one theme continues to come up again and again—quality of life issues. These types of issues are the modern challenge that our installations face when it comes to a potential BRAC round in the future, but perhaps more importantly, they are the greatest influencers on Department of Defense (DoD) decision makers shaping force realignment policy *right now*. Whether it be road and infrastructure challenges at Fort Bragg, easement, and encroachment obstacles at Camp Lejeune, or the inflated housing costs in Wilmington, all of our NC military installations are facing these types of challenges. I am working to strengthen our Military Affairs Division as a partner for our installations as they confront these issues. We are also working to ensure that our NC service members know that our State values them—we want them to call our state home, not just a stop along the way in their military career. That is why we organized an opportunity for the NC Military Family of the Year, SGT Justin Dixon, his wife Tawni and their son Cameron, to Raleigh last week to meet First Lady Kristin Cooper and tour the Museum of Natural Sciences. You may have even seen the Dixon family on WRAL news this past weekend.

The bottom line is that he feels as the Department, we have to have in collaboration with the NC Military Affairs Commission all things that are military related and military impact. To ensure that we are in tune with the active duty. We are very much in tune to the Veterans. We have a couple of issues in the area of the Cemeteries that he would like to shore up but overall, he thinks that everybody wants to help Veterans. He has not seen anyone out there that does not want to help Veterans. He does thank that it needs to be channelized so that all Veterans regardless of what part of the State they live in receive the services needed. We have some great initiatives as it relates to the injuries of Veterans that cannot be seen such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and also assault and sexual assault. There are medical agencies outside of the gate that can help the active duty as well as veterans.

That is where we are, and he will stand by for questions. Chairman Martin said that he appreciated the presentation that he provided and the incredible support that he and the Department is giving to the NC Military Affairs Commission.

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

Mike Scalise said that they had a great meeting today and he appreciated the attendance at the meeting by Chairman Martin and Secretary Gaskin. They had a full schedule at their meeting, and they had also talked about what the August NCCC meeting would look like. He thinks that it will be a mix of virtual and onsite in Raleigh. The positive with virtual is the interaction from the Commanders. So, he would like to see a virtual aspect continue to be part of the meetings going forward. Their meeting today started out with the Commander's comments, and they had a lot of good things today and also a COVID update to include the vast changing policies that sync with both the State of North Carolina and Secretary Austin's letter that was issued last week on the mask policy. He wanted to mention that they

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had a big project at Pope Airfield for \$90 M to repave the runway which will be a positive capability. Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) is interested in joining Sentinel Landscape and he will be looking to see if there is something that they can do to assist in that effort. There will be more to follow on that matter, as it does buy you in the point spread when you submit for Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) projects. He will talk more about REPI later in his comments. They had some of the Marine Corp installations talk about the impacts about the Commandant of the Marine Corps Force Design initiative. That will impact North Carolina both in positive and what we could lose as far as Commands. New River will gain a Reserve Squadron in late Fall. They had a period of instruction from CAPT Kline from the Naval Activity at Hampton Roads as it is related to their seven year work on their relocatable of the Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar (ROTHR) and the Timber Wind Farm initiatives. CAPT Kline is leaving the organization this Summer. REPI is the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) funding that allow for the easements that encroach on installations. That is how the funding occurs and has to have partnerships. Camp Lejeune has a lot of partners, and we work with the NC Department of Agriculture and many North Carolina partners and are part of REPI. In the REPI guidance there is a lot more about resilient programs and that program continues to grow and could double. There are more opportunities for us to work with our partners on encroachment issues that our installations are facing. We talked about air space and that was specifically about MCI-East and how they are looking at the expanding air space because of the larger and faster aircraft that we work with. The bottom line is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) owns that capability, so we owe it to our FAA partner to ensure that commercial air flights are not impacted. Final we received a period of instruction from Fayetteville State University (FSU) and a shout out to the interests that Chairman Martin in his letter of support that was sent out in April with regards to the Survey support for transitioning military throughout the installations. While the NC Commanders Council forwarded the letter from Chairman Martin on behalf of the NC Military Affairs Commission, he did not want that to get lost in a sea of Community Planning Liaison Officers (CPLO) inbox, so they wanted to ensure that the Commanders knew that the NC Military Affairs Commission had an interest in conducting this survey for transitioning service members. Camp Lejeune is going to support this effort as he has gotten his guidance from COL Ferry after they had received the briefing. He is hopeful that they will get a healthy and measurable number of transitioning service members that can give you an idea of not only what North Carolina can do to retain them but how we can improve on our transitioning assistance programs. No further discussion. Chairman Martin invited other Commission members to attend an NC Commander's Council meeting and listen to the items that are discussed at that meeting.

CAPE FEAR VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER ADOLSCENT WING: JOHN BIGGER

Kirk Warner said that John Bigger has been an important part of the QOL committee and this project for 3-4 years. He is the Corporate Director of Behavioral Health for Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and deserves many thanks for his hard work on this project. John Bigger said that he was glad to be presenting to the Commission today.

Dorothea Dix Care Unit for Adolescents at Cape Fear Valley

Dorothea Dix Care (DDC) Unit Background:

Cape Fear Valley Health (CFVH) is in the process of constructing a 16-bed inpatient facility for adolescents ages 12-17, with an anticipated opening of late 2021. The NC Department of Health and

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Human Services (DHHS) has provided \$4 million toward the construction of this facility, which will be called the Dorothea Dix Care (DDC) Unit for Adolescents, in honor of Dorothea Dix, a pioneer in the State of North Carolina for her work with the mentally ill.

- The new DDC Unit will be a newly constructed building adjacent to the current In-Patient Behavioral Services Building on the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center campus. Families will be able to avoid having to navigate through the main hospital building searching for the DDC Unit. This also allows easier access for adolescent patients and families with parking adjacent to the facility.
- Providing the DDC Unit at CFVH allows families improved access to care and affords them the opportunity to be more connected with their children. The DCC Unit also affords families from other nearby communities the opportunity to receive care in a central location with easy access to nearby highways and resources.
- The Cape Fear Valley Health System service area includes Cumberland, Harnett and four other surrounding counties in south central North Carolina. Fayetteville, in Cumberland County, is the fifth largest city in North Carolina, and home of Ft. Bragg, one of the largest military installations in the world. Military personnel live throughout the CFVH service area. Currently, children of military families needing inpatient psychiatric level treatment must travel 70 miles to Raleigh or 110 miles to Jacksonville, NC for care.
- A key component of the DDC Unit is the relationship between CFVH and the military at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Up to 70% of troops stationed at Ft. Bragg live off post in the Fayetteville and surrounding community. Development of the DDC Unit at Cape Fear Valley will allow for easier access for this population.
- Fort Bragg is considered by the US Army to be a “Compassionate Placement Location” for soldiers who have children with special needs. An average of 16-24 children per month are referred and subsequently admitted to inpatient hospitals at a great distance from Fayetteville from Womack Army Medical Center and Cape Fear Valley Health. Multiple challenges including childcare of siblings, demands related to deployment and job responsibilities impact the ability of a parent to adequately meet the needs of the hospitalized child. Having the DDC Unit at Cape Fear Valley will greatly reduce this burden on families in this community.

DDC Unit for Adolescents:

- Capacity for up to 16 Adolescents ages 12-17
- Semi-private rooms
- Bathrooms and Showers in each room
- Angled walls for constant visual observation
- 24/7 Video Surveillance in all common areas
- Two Group Therapy Rooms
- Quiet/Meditation Room
- Outdoor Covered Recreation Area
- Visitor/Guest Consultation Area
- Dining Room

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- Staff and treatment areas all on the unit

Daily Schedule and Activities:

- Psychiatric Assessment and Care
- Individual Therapy
- Activities Therapy and Exercise
- Treatment and Discharge Planning
- Medication Management
- Nursing Care
- Psychoeducation Groups
- Group Therapy
- Quiet Time for Meditation, Journaling, and Assignments
- Outdoor activities
- Leisure Activities and Free Time

Additional DDC Unit Needs:

- Cape Fear Valley Health respectfully requests consideration of contributions to assist with the remaining funding needed to construct this building. The \$4 million in DHHS funding presents our community with a tremendous opportunity to provide this inpatient treatment for adolescents that is such a desperate need in our region. CFVH has worked with architects, engineers, and others to design a state of the art building that will include the DDC Unit. Additional funding would amplify the DHHS support by enabling CFVH to provide the necessary support, structurally sound furnishings, clinical equipment, and recreational services.
- Charitable contributions to support this project are welcomed and may be made to the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cape Fear Valley Health. Donations may be made as one-time gifts or pledges paid over several years. All gifts will receive appropriate recognition in the facility and naming opportunities exist for many areas such as treatment and recreational areas as well as patient rooms. There are also sponsorship opportunities for many of the programs which will be offered to the patients and their families.
- I am hoping this request will be considered strongly. If this is a project for consideration, we stand ready to have further conversations to outline the parameters and funding guidelines for this endeavor.

For Additional Information:

- John Bigger, Corporate Director of Behavioral Health
- Cape Fear Valley Health
- Jbigg3@capefearvalley.com
- (910) 615-3715

Discussion:

Kirk Warner said that John Bigger has been in constant contact with Dr. John Lesica, Womack Medical Center and they have a great relationship with the community, State, and the Installation. John Bigger said that they have worked very closely with Dr. Lesica, and he will be able to keep the unit full of

just the children that he sees at Womack. Kelly Jackson said that the presentation had been sent to all of the members and also the Needs List.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE COMMANDER: COLONEL KURT HELPHINSTINE

Chairman Martin said that he was glad to have Colonel Helphinstine with us today. He is the Commander of the 4th Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB). He appreciates that Colonel Helphinstine is here today to brief the Commission on what is going on at SJAFB and what needs they may have for the Commission. He said that Colonel Helphinstine had taken command about one year ago. Also, from his biography I got that he flew F-15's and his call sign is Big Foot. Colonel Helphinstine said that he was happy to be with this group today and in the great state of North Carolina. He told Secretary Gaskin that it was a pleasure to speak to him again and he appreciated his visit to SJAFB. At SJAFB just like every military installation across the nation his airmen and their families want more schooling options for their children. In Wayne County, we have some very challenged schools. They have thirteen elementary schools, nine middle schools, and six high schools. They are a tier distressed designation based on the NC Department of Commerce's evaluation of economic well-being. Their property tax base is the 9th worse out of 100 North Carolina counties. We are in a challenged area in regard to schools. We have heard this concern from the families as they come in and decide not to live in Goldsboro and move about an hour away from the installation. This affects the families and readiness quite a bit when they have moved to the Triangle and Wake County where the school system is better. We have been talking about how to bring them back so they will have more family time. We have identified a building on base that is 35,000 square feet and can house a school for about 420 children. It was the old education center when people were going to class in person and in the evenings. During the day, only 1 of 12 classrooms were being used. They talked about how they could help the Wayne County school system provide another middle or high school option for children in the county. They have some specialty schools such as the Wayne County school of Engineering which holds about 400 students and is highly successful and has a lottery to get in. They have a partnership with the Wayne Community College but a limited number of students. So, what we have proposed is that since we have this world class facility and it is not used very much, we want to use it jointly with Wayne County School system.

We started this process about six months ago and the Secretary of the Air Force's level has given us permission to proceed and now it is down to a real estate deal. The Air Force has said yes, and we are waiting for the School Board to vote on this initiatives on June 7. Then we will have to talk to the County Commissioners as there are some startup costs for the school. We are proposing a Wayne County Public School in Goldsboro and on Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for 420 students, grades 6-12. The proposal is for 50% of the students to be military related (active duty, reservists, and DoD civilian) and 50% from a lottery where each feeder elementary school is given a number of slots based on their student enrollment and will be chosen by a random lottery to attend the school. Any seats allotted to military students that are not filled will be filled by county children. We look at this as a huge success for the military children and the community children. We have proposed a school of Technical Arts which took a little while to determine what that was and make it different from the school of Engineering. Also, how they would attract students that are not interested in engineering fields but still interested in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) background. So, this is what we are going to focus on for grades 6 on up. When he says Wayne County School of Technical Arts, which is

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what they are proposing it be called, they will still allow students to apply for the lottery, even if they score two grades behind. This will not be just for the high performing and honors students. It will be for any student that they think they can get to grade level by the time they graduate from high school. The school will focus on digital design and animation; game art design and game theory; and they are going to have drill and technology focus with computer programming, They will couple this with Honors Pre or Pre-AP , AP STEM throughout and tie all the curriculum together so when a student is learning about history they will see how that ties into other courses. We will be able to do this because the teachers will have to dual teach. That is why the school district will need to hop on to advertising for the teachers now, even though we will not start until next Fall. It will be the Fall of 2022. The teachers will need to be certified for more than one subject, such as science and social studies. Since we will have 420 both middle and high school, the teachers will have to teach more than one subject.

The Wayne County School of Engineering has more applications than they will ever have slots, so they think that this type of school will meeting their needs and be a high performing school on base. It will meet the needs of their families and also builds a community with minimal costs . The lease will be a five year lease with an option to extend five years at a time. They estimate that the cost will be under \$200,000 a year to use a world class building that looks like a school. He knows that they have some hurdles to work through reference transportation, but they are on track to work those issues. They are going to offer Esports which are computer gaming sports which is a growing trend. For traditional sports we will team up with one of the local high schools where a lot of our military children currently go to already. We think that we can build a deeper quiver of quality schools in Wayne County by using an Air Force paid building in joint use with the Wayne County school system. But after school and on the weekends, the airmen and women can still be taught. The Air Force also pays for a good portion of the utilities and upkeep for the building and Wayne Count will do their fair share. They hope to have a win-win for their community with a fairly minimal startup cost but for Wayne County a couple million dollars is a sizeable amount of money. He thinks they can see the yes on this joint project. They don't want to just complain about a problem but do something about it from the Air Force perspective. Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions or comments. Kirk Warner said that this was a terrific project and opportunity. He also wanted to thank Jamie Livengood and Christy Williams-Barnes for their work on this project. He asked Colonel Helphinstine to keep good notes on the process so this model could be used again when needed and across the country. He also wanted to thank him for taking on this project. Colonel Helphinstine said that it could be used as a model across the country and the community and county support has been extremely strong. Arnold Gordon-Bray said that he still works with a lot of children that are challenged. Many of our bases are around tough locations just like SJAFB. Your program to go a couple grades lower is very powerful and statistically children leave STEM programs right at the middle school level, so you are tagging the problem. He would ask what the pay for the teachers will be? Will it be the same as the other teachers in the county? Because you are on base, there will be a perception of a secure and safe place to teach and for students which could be attractive. But once the teachers know that they will need to teach two subjects, that may balance everything out. His hat is off to them for this project. Colonel Helphinstine said that a couple things that are important to them is that they wanted the school to serve both the military and the community families Also allowing the children two grade levels below where they are currently at does allow them to enter the school and set them up for success with small classes and track them. The way the lottery will work, Wayne County told us that our base school will team up with Carver Heights Elementary and

that is the school that we will work with, and we hope that they will call us their base. It is a school that traditionally has been socially and economically challenged. We work with those children, and we want a share of those children in this school just like the children from all of the other elementary schools across the county. It is important to us that we get children from all different backgrounds. That is where we came from as military members and that is what we think right looks like. ET Mitchell said that she is from Craven County, and they struggle with some of the same problems. She would like to have time to talk to him and others from Goldsboro who worked on this project as it could work for her area also. One of the things that they struggle with is connecting the military families with the local communities. Our military children have so much to give to local children in Craven County in perspective of their different backgrounds. A new window on a new world. She thinks that duplicating this project would be a great idea. Colonel Helphinstine said that he would get information to Chairman Martin and would like to have members learn about the other initiatives that they have been doing with Carver Heights in particular. There are eight classrooms per grade, 3rd-5th and it is where these children live in public housing. He takes his hat off to the Wayne County school system because they let the base personnel during the heart of COVID-19, before Christmas bring their children on base. They would tutor them for about 30 minutes and then take them on a field trip on the base, and then back to tutoring for another 90 minutes. They have done this every other week at least a dozen times. Only three children in that school have any military affiliation and none of them had ever been on base. One thing that they have found to be successful is bringing them on base and showing them what the military is about and what opportunities are out there. Most important that they believe in them. He thinks that this will be another success story. ET Mitchell said that if she is invited, she will show up. Chairman Martin thanked Colonel Helphinstine for this great project and the great work coming from SJAFB. Colonel Helphinstine said that he approved the support from the State level. When you combine a military friendly state like North Carolina, a supportive school system like Wayne County and community support we are able to get things done. That makes a world of difference.

BASE SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (BS&CA):

Base Sustainability and Community Affairs committee did not meet this quarter.

QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL): KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner reported on the 2nd Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting that met on April 27, 2021. You have just heard two of three success stories from the NCMAC and the QOL. The information from Colonel Helphinstine, and John Bigger. Both of these projects have been on the QOL agenda's especially the DDC project. We had a great meeting in April, and everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. He wants to take a moment to thank BG (R) Keith Martin from the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) for his 15 years as part of that organization and his presents at the QOL meetings. He will be missed and the support that he has been to our committee. At the April QOL meeting, Jamie Livengood gave an update on the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children Commission meeting and that the meetings have been very productive with the new leadership. A third win is the Purple Star Program. We are in the second year for this program and the applications this year exceeded the first year. There were 288 schools recognized as Purple Star recipients this year. There is a checklist of requirements to receive this designation. The recipients included 12 Districts, 1 Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), and 5 Charter schools. This was an outstanding number of recipients for the program this year. This program is great for our military families when

looking for schools when they come to North Carolina. We also talked about the great initiatives coming from SJAFB. Another topic was the State level military coordinator at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) being added back into the budget. We will continue to work on that topic as we need someone at DPI to lead the efforts for military children. The last couple of items we talked about was the Score Card and Troops to Teachers (TTT). The TTT program will be sunseting soon and hopefully Chad Sydnor will have more information about this during his presentation. The Score Card which we think will be used for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) review. The Air Force is leading that effort and he thinks that the other Services will get involved with this going forward. It is a score card of all installations but this one was for the Air Force. It evaluates various categories from education and licensure. North Carolina is yellow in those categories. We have a working group lead by Jamie Livengood, and we will be looking at recommendation on how to move from red to yellow or yellow to green. Finally, we looked at Sexual Assault issues and watching the legislation in Texas. We will keep an eye on that item. Representative Cleveland said that he was pushing for appropriators in the Senate and the House for coordinators and he thinks that he has gotten a positive response. He will keep an eye on this item. Chairman Martin said that he wanted to emphasis a couple items from this presentation. He asked Kelly Jackson to send out the Score Card information to the Commission members. He also wanted to thank Chad Sydnor for his work and leading the charge for the TTT program and also the staffer for Senator Tillis and Burr. He said that Michael Scalise had an alibi from his presentation. Michael Scalise said that a topic from the NCCC was from SJAFB. One of the asks from SJAFB from both Secretary Gaskin's office and the NCCC if we could address legislation. Some of you may remember the Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA). That was brought into legislation in 2016 through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Many installations have been using IGSA's with their communities. You can combine capabilities with state, county, municipalities that can help out the installations in some areas. At Camp Lejeune, they have the traffic lights maintained by the City of Jacksonville. The City of Goldsboro lawyer does not agree that the State legislation supports going into an IGSA with SJAFB. They have proposed language and asked that adjustments be made to the current legislation under 160A-311 and 312. He will forward that language. Chairman Martin has forwarded that language to Rep Cleveland and Rep John Bell. Rep Cleveland said that he has had a problem with this since it was brought up over a year ago. If the other installations can have IGSA's then what is the problem with the Lawyer at Goldsboro? He will talk to Chairman Martin offline about this matter.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DAVID HAYDEN

David Hayden reported for the 2nd Quarter Economic Development Committee meeting that met on April 13, 2021. He wanted to say that he will miss having Frank Bottorff as a Commission member. He also wanted to remind Secretary Gaskin and Kirk Warner that they were given marching orders at the ESG to get together because of the influx of large companies to North Carolina such as Apple and Amazon and more follow companies that will be coming with them. We were going to brainstorm on how we can get these companies familiar with the military family in North Carolina. How we can get them familiar with the bases, and all of the players. He will try to get on Secretary Gaskin's calendar. We have been looking at items that are low hanging fruit to improve the quality of life and improve things in case of a future BRAC. One of those items was a tax exemption for military retiree pay. We thought that was going to be an easy item, but we are still fighting that battle. He knows that Chairman Martin, Rep Cleveland, and a State Senator that is on the call has much more visibility on this matter. He

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does know that Rep John Szoka has House Bill 83 that has been read in front of the legislature and will be read a couple more times. Hopefully that bill will get passed in the House of Representatives. There are also some Senate bills on this topic but going at it from a different direction. He does not have any more information on this topic, but he does know that these bills are working through the system and there is a lot of interest on this issue. He has been asked to speak at a defense tech coffee on Friday because there are a lot of people from the defense industry that are military members that have an interest on this issue. This issue is still working but it has not been easy, but we will keep pushing.

During the last committee meeting the members gave updates from their groups. Jamie Norment gave an update from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) and Fleet Readiness Center -East (FRC-East). He was glad to hear about a Reserve unit that Michael Scalise mentioned that was going to MCAS. There is a lot of Economic Development activity that is ongoing in the Eastern part of the state and that we received the funds released to do all of the contracts to repair the damage from Hurricane Florence. We may have money coming back from the boarder wall that could be shifted back to some construction projects that were delayed. There was a lot of good positive feedback in these contracts that are being executed. We also received an update from Fort Bragg and there is a lot going on there. Good news about the Pope field runway being resurfaced. As many of you know that field has never been updated. It was an Air Force field and given to the Army and they have been carrying that field for a long time. That field is a point of the spear for the Army and the Special Operations Forces. They deserve to have a newly paved runway there and it will make big dividends. Will Best from NC Commerce was also at the meeting. He has been working with us to look at how we can update the Economic Impact Study. You may remember that the report had been done in 2013 and updated back in 2015. We have been working with Will Best and others from NC Commerce and we had a briefing from them at the Economic Development Committee from Jeff DeBellis, NC Commerce who was involved in the prior studies. We need to have an updated report on the impact of military on the economic spending in North Carolina. We need to have the most updated information in a report for people coming to North Carolina or people wanting to remove units from North Carolina. You will hear from Jeff DeBellis later in the meeting on a proposal to update the current report. In his proposal there will be a lot of in-kind analysis from NC Commerce and then a third part company will conduct the data collection. There could be a quick turnaround once the proposal is approved. We also received an update from Denny Lewis for Economic Development Partnership for NC (EDPNC). It was his initiative last year to take some of the funding that we pay to EDPNC and to target that to marketing. Some of the funding that we send to Commerce to pay for the EDPNC position through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was to allow Denny Lewis to travel to different venues last year but that did not happen due to the pandemic. He came to the Economic Development Committee and made a proposal that we use that unused funding for a marketing campaign. This campaign is both internal and external of North Carolina. David Hayden thinks that this campaign has been very successful and now he has developed a follow on campaign. This campaign may be something that the Commission wants to consider and approve additional funding especially since we now have a Strategic Communications Working Group (SCWG). This initiative needs to be handed off to the SCWG in the future. The Commission is also going to hear from Tammy Everett, Defense Alliance of North Carolina (DANC) reference the MOU that we have with DANC to take the Cluster Analysis to the next step. Moving forward, DANC will brief at the Economic Development Committee meetings and then he will give the Commission members an update on their progress and the Full Commission meetings. The final item that he wants to talk about is the

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Fayetteville State (FSU) Community Grant reference transitioning service members. Also, the discussion in the General Assembly on the tax exemption for military retiree pay is going to be important to know how big of a factor is that taxation on their retirement pay impacting their decisions to stay in North Carolina or to go to another state. We think that the data we will get from the FSU study will be very helpful. That concluded the comments for Economic Development.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:

Legislative Affairs Committee did not meet this quarter.

BYLAWS WORKING GROUP: KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner said that he had nothing new to report reference the Commission Bylaws.

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP:

Kelly Jackson updated the Commission members on the budget. She said that we are on track and according to the plan. As of the end of May the Commission has spent \$623, 404.25. The Community Grant update is very good. The FSU Grant has been signed and funds of \$31,200 have been paid to FSU for the project. The Homefront Room Revival Grant has been signed and the funds have been sent to them for \$47,976. The grant for the City of Fayetteville is on hold as we are waiting for information from them for the location of the second kiosk for \$66,880. Rodney Anderson has been helping to facilitate movement. She does not think that a payment for this grant will happen this fiscal year.

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

	20-21 Budget	20-21 Expenses	Proposed 21-22 Budget
Appropriations	\$2,000,000.00		
Brought forward	\$ 893,665.88		
Budgeted		\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00
Expenses:			
Administration	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 7,204.25	\$ 40,000.00
Conferences	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 40,000.00
Lobbying Contract	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
Minor contracted Svc	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
Marketing/STRATCOM	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00
Other Stab initiatives	\$		\$ 45,000.00
NC4ME	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
MOU Commerce/EDPNC	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
MOU Sent Landscape	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Community Grant	\$ 225,000.00		
DANC	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Reserve			\$ 100,000.00
Contract Svc Staffing			\$ 25,000.00
Annual Total	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$	\$ 1,200,000.00
Total Expense		\$ 623,404.25	
YTD remaining		\$ 576,595.75	
Fund Balance	\$ 1,693,665.88		

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Discussion for Proposed budget:

Kelly Jackson said that the Commission has spent \$623,404.25 through May 2021. The Community Grants are going well. The Grant to Fayetteville State University has been signed and payment has been paid (\$31,200). The Grant for Homefront Room Revival has been signed and the paperwork for payment is being processed (\$47,976). The Grant for the City of Fayetteville is a work in progress which was approved for \$66,880) but she does not think that the paperwork or payment will be made in this fiscal year. Expenditures for the remainder of this year will be invoices for Cassidy and Associates and any stipend invoices. Kelly Jackson had developed this proposed budget which is similar to last year's budget (FY 20-21). The Commission has the funds for the 2021-2022 budget and this budget would not use all of the funds of the Commission. The Commission does need to approve a budget or make a motion to give her approval to pay invoices for the FY 2021-2022 that she receives during this quarter (July and August). She asked if anyone had any questions about the proposed budget? The budget that you are being asked to approve is the 2021-2022 budget. Representative Cleveland recommended that we move the Community Grant funding to a Reserve account. Chairman Martin recommended that we budget funding for a temporary staff person to help Kelly Jackson with their NCMAC duties. Kelly Jackson said that the staff was for a part-time employee for 20 hours a week at \$20 an hour for a cost of approximately \$21,000 annually. David Hayden said that he supports the \$21,000 for a temporary employee to help with administrative duties. He said that Kelly Jackson does a lot to help the Commission. ET Mitchell said that she would also support the temporary hire. She also had a question about the Marketing/STRATCOM budget line. The funding last year was \$200,000 and she recommended that the Marketing budget was \$200,000 as it was in the last budget. Gerald Rudisill also supported the discussion for a temporary employee to help with administrative items. He thinks that Kelly Jackson needs the help to continue to support the Commission. Rep Cleveland said that he agrees with all of the comments from the Commission members and Kelly Jackson has done a fantastic job. He thinks that the Commission members need to go back to read the language that is in the legislation for the Commission concerning positions. Chairman Martin asked Rep Cleveland to elaborate on what he is talking about. Rep Cleveland said that positions have been provided to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to cover the Commission. Initially the Commission did not have any issues with the DMVA and then with the last DMVA Secretary, things fell apart. He believes that with our present Secretary, maybe we can see if this can work out. Chairman Martin said that he has spoken with Secretary Gaskin and thinks that he may still be on this call. Secretary Gaskin said that he can address this. He said that if you do look at General Statue 143-B which sets up the DMVA, it says that we will provide administrative support to the Commission, and we do that. He said that Kelly Jackson also has a job inside the Department and spends all of her time working with the Commission and he has supported that and the title as Executive Director. What he does not support the belief that the DMVA can do any more that we do and maintain all of the issues that the Department is responsible for. If the Department of Military Affairs, that Division only did what was associated with the Commission, then all of the issues that we have talked about today have validity in what we do. He does not have anyone else to contribute to that cause. He is trying to get more staff to do the work required in the Department. Rep Cleveland said that the legislation provided four positions. Three of them were funded in the DMVA for the NCMAC. Secretary Gaskin said that those position in his Department are a Division. One of his Divisions has 92 positions, and the other Division has 3 positions. Those three positions are not designed to only do work for the NCMAC. He does not know where the misunderstanding has occurred, but he can tell that if he only did work for the NCMAC, there would be a

lot of things undone in the Military Division. Chairman Martin said that he wanted to interject something here. In our NCMAC capacity we don't have the ability to determine these sort of things, this is a General Assembly matter. He hopes that things like this will be worked out. All that we are asking for is part of this budget to fund a part-time position. We can see how this goes for this budget year and then re-evaluate then. If we think it has added a lot of value, we make a decision to keep this going moving forward. This is just a small step to help the NCMAC in the coming budget year. Kirk Warner said that he thinks we need this position, so he recommends we take from the Reserve funding (\$225,000) and put \$25,000 for this position, \$100,000 to increase the Marketing account to \$200,000 and have \$100,000 in Reserve. He would ask if Rep Cleveland will amend his motion to that language. Crockett Long said that he wanted to echo the great job that Kelly Jackson has done for the Commission. He has one question about the budget. He looks at the appropriations and from year to year, there is money that we have not spent. He is confused about that and there is a lot of money that is transferred from year to year. Can we take some of the funding that is not used each year to help with the staffing issue? Chairman Martin said that procedurally we have a motion from Rep Cleveland and then we had a lot of discussion. We can either proceed with Rep Cleveland's motion or go with Kirk Warner's substitute motion. Kirk Warner said that he was asking for the original motion be amended to add his recommended changes. Rep Cleveland said that he is going to change his motion for the budget to be approved with the following changes. Put the Community Grant (\$225,000) into a Reserve account, move \$100,000 of the Reserve account into the Marketing account for a total of \$200,000, and \$25,000 for a part-time employee. Then the Reserve account will have \$100,000. Proposed budget for FY 2021-2022 of \$1,200,000. The motion was seconded by ET Mitchell and approved by a unanimous vote. The motion carried. Kevin Arata, City of Fayetteville said that he wanted to mention that there was a chance that the City of Fayetteville could get the approval for the Kiosk's before the end of this fiscal year, so the funds could be spent this year. Chairman Martin thanked him for that information.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP (SCWG): ET MITCHELL

Chairman Martin said that the SCWG has been working very hard and he wanted to thank ET Mitchell and her group for the hard work they have been doing for the strategic communications for the Commission. ET Mitchell gave an update from the Strategic Communications Working Group.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

1 – Summary

a. Audience:

b. Strategic Goal: 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.

c. Responsibility: NCMAC

Strategic Communications Working Group

II – Strategic Communications Working Group

ET Mitchell: Chair

Rodney Anderson: V/Chair

Kelly Jackson: Sec

Frank Bottorff

Julie Daniels

Chuck Allen

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Ariel Aponte

III – 2020 Priorities

1. STRATCOM Plan: Review, Refine, Implement
 2. Committee Coordination: NCMAC goals
 3. Regional Benefits: Promote features
 4. Education: Public & Stakeholders
 5. Overarching Organizations: NGOs
- IV – Implementation Recommendations
1. Submit communications objections to NCMAC for approval
 2. Delineate and prioritize messages, audiences to promote NCMAC goals
 3. Prepare RFI for corporate communications

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP (SCWG)

I SCWG OVERVIEW:

- a. Purpose: Strategic Communications
- b. Goal: Plan and Manage SC
- c. Guidance: NCMAC 2020 Strategic Plan
- d. Type: Informal Working Group
- e. Governance: Robert’s Rules of Order
- f. Documents: “Staff Working Papers”
- g. Oversight: NCMAC

II STRATCOM DEFINITION:

“The purposeful dissemination of themes, messages and images that promote and advance North Carolina as the most Military and Veteran friendly State in the United States:

III SCWG MEMBERS:

ET Mitchell: Chair (Legislative)
Rodney Anderson: V/Chair (Economic Development)
Kelly Jackson: Secretary
Frank Bottorff (Installations_
Julie Daniels (Quality of Life)
Chuck Allen (Legislative)
Ariel Aponte (DMVA)

IV PLANNING & OPNS CORE VALUES

Accountability: Responsibility
Integrity: Honest and Truthful
State-wide: Inclusive, across the state
Proactive: Self-initiated

NCMAC Meeting: SCWG Next Steps – Feb 16, 2021:

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

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- 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.
- [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. ...APPROVED by NCMAC!](#)

SCWG Planner Considerations:

1. Hire Janet Hart Strategic Communications Planner (SCP)
 - a. Pay, benefits, travel, lodging and overall budget
 - b. Work and reporting
2. Collect and deliver background info and data for SCP
 - a. NCMAC and DMVA Briefings and Documents
 - b. RACE and SWOT Background Products
 - c. List of weblinks (Access to key information)
3. Develop instructions and in brief for SCP
 - a. Priorities, Feedback, Questions, Weekly reporting
4. Develop tasks, priorities, milestones for SC Plan Development (Aug Draft)
 - a. Process: SWOT, RACE, Decision Making Process/System, ...
 - b. Key Publics: Develop working list
5. Update to NCMAC and Committees: May 18th
 - a. SCP Hire Announcement; SCP Timeline; SC Conference?

SCWG Update to NCMAC:

- A. SCWG Update: Gathered information to hire a part-time professional to develop the NCMAC strategic communications plan to advance the NCMAC 2020 Strategic Plan.
 - B. SC Tools and Techniques: Identified tools and techniques in order to decide the best professional to build the plan. Considered: press releases, social media, print media, websites, marketing, surveys, themes, messages, audiences, and the skills needed to plan.
 - C. SC Planner: NCMAC approved hiring a planner. SCWG conducted a comprehensive review, announced position; interviewed four candidates; identified one candidate with the experience and skills. Made an offer, offer was declined in favor of a permanent position.
 - D. Planning and Operating: During our last few months we came to the conclusion that any plan must be tied to how it will be implemented. This became clear in our process.
 - E. Way Ahead: Our work over the last few weeks brings us to the conclusion that we must think both about the plan and the implementation of the plan. We believe the best way to do this is to conduct RFI/RFP to determine agencies who are best suited for the task.
- [>>Present options, concepts, and costs for Commission approval in August 2021.](#)

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Discussion:

This process has been more complicated than the working group had anticipated. Back in February the Commission approved for the SCWG funding of \$50,000 to hire a temporary professional to write the plan for us. We move forward on that plan and the group has been meeting every week. We have learned a great deal about the public information sphere and what is needed to advance the NC Military Affairs Commission's strategic plan. We did two searches through Temporary Solutions which yielded four candidates who met some of the priorities and interviewed all of them. Only one of the candidates emerged as the best candidate. We offered her the position, but she declined due to her accepting another full-time position. As we have gathered information we concluded that the plan must be tied to the implementation. We think that the best way ahead is not get someone to write the plan and then have someone implement the plan but to do them in conjunction. The plan for the next three months is to publish a Request for Information (RFI) to public information agencies in North Carolina to be followed by a Request for Proposal (RFP) for someone who can write and execute a strategic plan for us. The goal is to have this done prior to the August Commission meeting with a set of recommendations of a professional entity who can write and execute the plan. That is a tight timeline. She appreciates the support for a part time temporary assistant for Kelly Jackson as the working group is putting a lot on her. The working group has done a pivot, but this will enable the group to best meet the needs of the Commission. Chairman Martin asked ET Mitchell if she had a motion for the Commission due to this pivot. ET Mitchell said that she did. The original request that was approved was for \$50,000 to hire a planner which would have been followed by a different funding request to look for an agency to implement the plan. She asks for the money to be held in the budget. She has learned that there are a number of cheap platforms that are cheap to sign up for but the maintenance costly. Second, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is not staffed to do the strategic communications for the State of North Carolina. Not the NC Military Affairs Commission, but the State of North Carolina, our military installations, our military veterans, and military communities need. Chairman Martin said that there is no change to the budget but authorization to change directions and not hire a temporary employee but to put out and RFP. ET Mitchell said that she would like to make or see a motion to allow the SCWG to publish a RFI and RFP. Chairman Martin asked for a second on the motion to have the SCWG publish a RFI followed by and RFP. The motion was seconded by Rep Cleveland but would like to have a discussion. He asked that the Commission repurpose the money that was approved to hire a person for strategic planning. Chairman Martin asked Rep Cleveland if he was asking to shift money in the budget right now? Rep Cleveland said that there is money in the budget right now to hire a part time employee. If ET Mitchell wants that money left there it will not be used to hire a part time employee but will be repurposed in support of the plan moving forward and not to hire a part time employee. Chairman Martin said that once the SCWG comes back to the Commission after they have evaluated the RFPs then we can approve the funding required to move forward. We don't know what to approve at this time without seeing the RFP's. ET Mitchell said that was correct. Her goals are to be able to come back with a menu of options and recommendations. Then the Commission can determine how much do they want to spend and how do they want to spend these funds. Arnold Gordon-Bray asked if there is going to be a RFP to advertising agencies that are capable of providing a plan and giving you platforms and dollar amounts associated. ET Mitchell said that she would not call them an advertising agency but public information. We are trying to inform the public, not sell them something. He is using advertising agencies because the Army would put out a strategic plan and then go to an advertising agencies. The advertising agencies would take the strategic message and then develop the

platforms or recommend the platforms that would give us the best return for our investment. So, we are going to get a planner who can also associate the plan with products. ET Mitchell said that was correct. We need someone who knows what they are doing. We want a company that has demonstrated their capabilities. Rodney Anderson said that through this process we have learned a lot. It is disjointed to have someone develop the plan and then have someone else execute that plan. Since the strategic plan directed that there be a commercial search and RFI, we think that is the best thing to do at this time. When we come back in August we will have the details and make a recommendation for how we might advance the work of the Committees and Commission. Chairman Martin said that we have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion on the motion. ET Mitchell said that it is conceivable that they come back with two entities or more working on this. Chairman Martin asked for the Commission members to vote on this motion. It passed with a unanimous vote.

CASSIDY & ASSOCIATES: CHAD SYDNOR

Chad Sydnor gave a presentation for Cassidy and Associates. He had drafted some language for TTT, and it was reviewed by Doug Taggart and submitted to both Senator Tillis' and Burr's offices. Senator Tillis does sit on the Senate Arms Services Committee and is the ranking member on the Military Personnel Sub-Committee. Senator Burr is the ranking member on the Health and Education, and Labor and Pensions committee. That will be a good combination.

FY22 Budget:

- The President recently released a "skinny budget" that sets the Defense Department's base budget at \$715 Billion for FY22.
- The budget continues to be delayed, now the projected date for OMB sending the budget to Congress is "around Memorial Day."
 - Justification Books (J-Books) may not come over until June.
- \$715B DOD budget request represents a 1% increase over FY21 and slightly below the \$722B that the Trump Administration had been planning to request.
- Original projections for the Biden Administration's budget had been \$704-\$708B and therefore \$715B is exceeding projections.
- Important to understand that the President's Budget request is just that, a request.
 - When we finally see the full budget, we can expect to see a reduction in legacy accounts as DOD attempts to shift money to modernization and RDT&E accounts.

Earmarks:

- The House of Representatives will be bringing back earmarks in the form of "Community Project Funding."
 - House Republicans have voted to participate in the earmark process, but some Members have vowed not to participate.
 - 2 North Carolina Members signed the letter vowing not to request earmarks:
 - Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC-09)
 - Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC-13)

The Senate is also bringing back earmarks and Appropriations Chairman Pat Leahy has issued guidance.

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- The Senate prefers the term “Congressionally Directed Spending Items.”
- Republicans voted not to engage in earmarks, but it is a nonbinding vote which means each Republican Senator can decide whether they will submit requests and engage in the process.
 - Senator Burr will submit requests
 - Senator Tillis has not announced a decision yet.

FY22 NDAA & Appropriations:

- The NDAA process has been delayed due to the delayed President’s Budget.
- HASC is still planning to mark up the bill in June but that is expected to be delayed
- SASC recently delayed their mark up to July 21.
- If SASC adheres to that schedule, the Senate version likely will not receive floor time until September.
- This delay means that Congress will likely not agree to a Conference Report until the November-December timeframe.
- Regular appropriations will also be delayed and there is a high likelihood of FY22 beginning with a Continuing Resolution (CR) in place.
- CR will likely run to December as well.

DoD Officials:

Confirmed:

Secretary Lloyd Austin – 22 Jan
Deputy Secretary Kathleen Hicks – 8 Feb
Undersecretary for Policy Colin Kahl – 27 Apr

At Senate:

Secretary of the Air Force – Frank Kendall
Secretary of the Army – Christine Wormuth (hearing 5/13)
General Counsel – Caroline Krass
Comptroller – Mike McChord (hearing 5/11)
Undersecretary for A&S – Michael Brown
Undersecretary for Intel – Ronald Moultrie (hearing 5/11)
Undersecretary for P&R – Gil Cisneros
Undersecretary for R&E – Heidi Shyu
Undersecretary of the Air Force – Gina Jones
Assistant Secretary for INDOPACOM Security Affairs – Ely Ratner
Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs – Brenda Sue Fulton
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear, Chem and Bio Defense Programs – Deborah Rosenblum
Assistant Secretary for Readiness – Shawn Skelly
Assistant Secretary for Special Operations & Low Intensity Conflict – Chris Maier
Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities – Mara Karlin
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works – Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment – Meredith Berger
Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) – Susanna Blume

No Nominee

Secretary of the Navy!

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30 other positions

Other NC Military Matters:

Camp Lejeune - April 22, 2021, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic and Office in Charge of Construction (OICC) Florence participated in a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of a five-year effort to revitalize Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River and MCAS Cherry Point. The groundbreaking was held at the soon to be replaced 10th Marine Regiment headquarters which will be the first of many Hurricane Florence related projects.

Fort Bragg – 82nd ABN paratroopers will be making a full return to one of the largest international military exercises in the world amid a global pandemic. More than 7,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division will execute three multinational airborne operations between May 1 and May 15. They will be joined by the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the Polish 6th Airborne Brigade, and nine other nations.

MCAS Cherry Point - In March this year, the Marines received their 60th KC-130J, which was delivered to VMGR-252 at MCAS Cherry Point. This leaves another 26 aircraft to be delivered over the next five years, completing an order book for 86 aircraft. The latest KC-130J deliveries also feature additional improvements, including enhanced navigation systems, an upgraded cockpit, and the Department of the Navy Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasure self-protection system.

Seymour Johnson AFB- April 30, 2021, the 916th Air Refueling Wing received the Air Force's 45th KC-46 Pegasus. The KC-46, tail number 18-6055, brings the wing's total fleet of KC-46s to six.

NC Senate Race: Senator Burr

- Senator Burr is not running for re-election in 2022. Candidates who have already declared:
 - Republicans:**
 - Rep. Ted Budd
 - Former Governor Pat McCrory
 - Former Representative Mark Walker
 - Democrats**
 - Former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley
 - State Senator Jeff Jackson
 - Former State Senator Erica Smith
- There is no clear front runner now in either party and more candidates are expected to declare in the coming months.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE MILITARY ON NORTH CAROLINA: JEFF DEBELLIS

Jeff DeBellis from the NC Department of Commerce gave a presentation reference Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina.

About LEAD:

- Produce labor market information in partnership with US DoL
- Conduct big data analysis of wage & employment outcomes of participants in NC education & training programs
- Create websites, dashboards, online tools, and publications for the public to access NC economic data

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- Analyze data, make presentations, author briefs and reports to help policy-makers, program managers, and the public understand and utilize economic data to make informed decisions

LEAD-Authored Previous Military Economic Impact Studies:

- 2008 North Carolina's Military Footprint
- 2013 The Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina
- 2015 The Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina

Previous Impact Studies:

- Utilized REMI – economic impact modeling software
- Examined economic impact of total US military spending on NC's economy
 - Impact on total NC jobs & by industry
 - Impact on total personal income
 - Impact on state GDP
- Additional military-related data
 - DoD prime contracting
 - Active-duty personnel – by installation
 - Top occupations
 - Veterans – by region, age, & projections

2015 Study Approach for 2021?

- Written by Commerce/LEAD
 - Analysis, data collection, & report writing by Commerce/LEAD
 - In-kind contribution
- Modeling by REMI (contract)
 - Model creation, impact figures
 - Est. \$40,000 to do in 2021
- Data collection help
 - NCMAC
 - DMVA
 - Military Business Center
- 5-6 Month duration

Minimum Data Needed:

- All active military employment (on- or off-base)
- Military members in training
- Federal civilian employment
- Contract civilian employment – directly employed by base (on- or off-base)
- Average compensation for military & civilian staff
- Annual or average annual spending on materials, services & other
 - Breakout of spending that was awarded in-state and out-of-state
- Any proposed or planned expansions in the near-future
 - Personnel & Construction / Equipment – breakout of spending would be ideal

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Discussion:

David Hayden said that this process is pretty quick. He made a motion to approve funding of \$40,000 to update the Report of Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina. The motion was seconded by Kirk Warner. ET Mitchell said that she supported this request. Kelly Jackson said that she would work with Meredith Swartz, Purchasing office for a Sole Source request. Chairmen Martin said there was a motion to approve funding of \$40,000 for this project and asked if there was any further discussion? Scott Dorney had a point of clarification. He said that there would be a lot of data collection which will be provided by NC Commerce and the NC Military Business Center (NCMBC). There will also be a lot of data required from the bases. It will be important that they are supportive of this project. Chairman Martin said that there was a motion before the Commission. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

DEFENSE ALLIANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA (DANC): TAMMY EVERETT

DANC Project Team:

Project Manager: BG Jay Gothard, US Army (Ret) The Gothard Group LLC

Team Leads:

Tammy Everett, DANC Senior Director
Bill Herrold, Washington Office Group
Ruth Anderson, RNE Consultants
Alison Blange, AKATA Globak
Phil Williams, Phil Williams LLC
Kevin Klug, Trane Technologies
Van Carpenter, Van Carpenter Innovation Solutions

Executive Team Advisors:

LTGEN Mark Brilakis, US Marine Corps (RET)
Tim Gabel, RTI International
Chris Edge, Duke Energy
Fred Day, Former CEO Progress Energy Carolinas

DANC – NCMAC MOU Tasks/Activities:

- Funding received **12Mar2021**
- Kick-off meeting with NCMAC leadership **31Mar2021**
- DANC E-news “Mission” **March 2021** issue
- Innovation & Leadership virtual forum “The key to unlocking higher performance in your business” presented by Cardivera **18Mar2021**
- Government Relations virtual forum presented by The University of North Carolina Systems Office **24Mar2021**
- Presentation to NCMAC Economic Development Committee **13Apr2021**
- Products & Services virtual forum "In Support of Magic: Transforming the Real World with 3D Telemetry" presented by Tom Welsh, President Revware **13Apr2021**
- North Carolina Defense Industry “Get Aligned” virtual outreach event with keynote Senator Thom Tillis and sponsored by Ward and Smith, Allies for Cherry Point’s Tomorrow, and the New Bern Military Alliance **15Apr2021**

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- ❑ Strategic Planning Meetings with Team Leads specific to the MOU Tasks/Deliverables **21Apr2021**
- ❑ DANC E-news “Strategic Partnership” **April 2021** issue
- ❑ Business North Carolina article <https://businessnc.com/point-taken-how-north-carolina-hustles-on-defense/> published **30Apr2021**
- ❑ Survey hosted by RTI International targeted for the Southeast Region Federal & State Textile virtual summit hosted by NCMBC **18-20May2021**
- ❑ Government Relations virtual forum with Jordan Whichard, Chief Deputy Secretary NC Department of Commerce **26May2021**
- ❑ Science & Technology virtual forum with Peter Baird, CFO Infrared Cameras **9Jun2021**

DANC – NCMAC MOU Tasks/Future Activities:

Forums:

- Conduct up to 4 Forums following the model of the April 15th outreach event. Forums focus on Federal Agencies, Programs and Budgets
 - Science & Technology; Phil Williams continues to serve as chair of these efforts. S&T Forums to incorporate/further output of the Cluster Study
 - Professional Services; Allison Blango has agreed to help organize as the team lead. 2nd half of September
 - Facilities and Infrastructure; in conjunction with FEDCON: Joe Angel has agreed to help organize as the team lead. October 27-28
 - Education and Economic Development; Still seeking a Chair. Mid November.

Surveys:

- Pre and Post Forum surveys of the individual/extended Defense Communities to measure awareness of the role the defense economy plays in NC and the efforts of the NCMAC
- Surveys to include identifying resources available to support Symposia to be held in conjunction with NCMBC under MOU wherever feasible

Output:

- White papers on those defense communities in North Carolina. White papers can be used for educating Congressional Delegation, State Officials and General Public.
- Provide input for NC Commerce Department Task Force on Defense Innovation
- Creates opportunities to breathe life into our new committee structures

Build on/ Support Ongoing Initiatives:

- Symposia to be held in conjunction with NCMBC under MOU wherever feasible

Final Report to NCMAC to include overall results of the project, findings of pre and post surveys, white papers, and analysis of the project

Contact Information:

Tammy Everett, Senior Director
910-690-4450
teverett@defensealliancenc.org

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Bill Herrold, President Management Council
703-862-1249
bill@washingtonofficegroup.com

BG (Ret) William "Jay" Gothard, Vice President Management Council
910-309-8326
wjaygo@aol.com

Discussion:

David Hayden said that going forward that he recommends that DANC reports to the Economic Development Committee and he as the Chairman of that committee will bring forth any information that needs to be taken to the Commission members. Chairman Martin said that he appreciated David Hayden and his committee taking on that duty.

OFF-SHORE WIND: JEMERY TARR

Jeremy Tarr said that he was in the Policy Office for the Governor's Office. He wanted to give the group an update on recent federal and state activities related to off-shore wind and then answer any questions. He said that the Governor wanted him to extend his appreciation to everyone for the work they do and support of our military installations and communities. You may be aware that the Governor proclaimed the month of May as Military Appreciation Month to honor the contributions and sacrifices of our military service members, families, and Veterans. Governor Cooper is also proud that North Carolina's reputation as the most military friendly State in the country. He is fully committed to our military installations and communities so that they can continue to protect our national security. We also have to remember that our military installations are one of the State's largest economic drivers and contributing over \$66 billion annually in economic impact. So, as we move forward with new industries such as off-shore wind, we need to do so with a way that is compatible with our military. Now we plan to move forward very thoughtfully with off-shore wind so that no off-shore wind project gets built that would jeopardize our military bases or military readiness. You may or may not be aware that Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 80 in 2018 to set us on a path for clean energy and adjust climate change in the State. Off-shore is one of the aspect of the Governor's overall focus on busing economic opportunities for North Carolinian through a transition to clean energy. We are going to focus on that one aspect. Something that he has learned, and you may find interesting and will kind of help to set the context for off-shore wind in his mind is that globally we have seen off-shore wind grow by 24% annually since 2013. They are projecting about 300 gigawatts of off-shore wind globally by 2030. In the United States, along the Atlantic Coast, our best estimates are that we will see about 41 gigawatts of off-shore wind by 2030. That is about the size of about 41 nuclear reactors worth of compacity off of the Atlantic Coast. You may have heard that a couple of weeks ago the President of the United States had a big off-shore wind announcement and setting a goal of 30 gigawatts by 2030 and announced a number of federal funding opportunities for off-shore wind related research and infrastructure development.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently announced that they have plans to review construction and operational permits for at least sixteen off-shore wind projects by 2025. Off-shore wind is moving quickly globally and nationally. In North Carolina we have three off-shore wind areas. The first is called Kitty Hawk area and that is off our Northeastern Coast. That was designated many

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years ago. and leased in 2017 for development and we expect to see turbines spinning through that project starting in about 2026. The remaining two areas have been identified as wind areas but have not been leased. They are in the Southern part of the coast called Wilmington West and Wilmington East. In terms of economic opportunities, projections off of the Atlantic Coast a build out of about 41 gigawatts off of the East Coast by 2035 and to build that out would require \$140 B of investment. The NC Department of Commerce recently completed a study which identified that North Carolina could compete for about \$100 billion of that \$140 billion pie. That investment would go into manufacturing and Supply Chain companies across North Carolina and especially Coast Communities. The Commerce study was really focused on identifying the off-shore wind supply chain and infrastructure opportunities for our State.

As we see this economic opportunity, off-shore wind also helps to play a role in our energy sector. North Carolina is already a leader and has been for many years in solar capacity nationally. Off-shore wind can help to diversify our clean energy sector and help to provide for liability, and resilience. North Carolina released an Energy plan in 2019 which set a goal of 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emission in our power sector 2030 and carbon emission by 2050. The President's goals are carbon neutral by 2035 in the power sector. We also see Duke energy and others creating similar goals out to 2050. So, the development of off-shore wind is consistent with all of the trends that we are seeing at the federal/state levels of utilities and many large companies.

Another action that they have taken is that last Fall, Governor Cooper signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Governor's from Virginia and Maryland. To ensure that our states are going to work together as a region reference off-shore wind and especially when it comes to economic development and jobs. More recently, on March 3, 2021, Governor Cooper sent a letter to the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), which is in the Department of Interior. He was asking for three things. That the Director lease North Carolina's East and West areas by July 1 of next year. Also, to start the process to identify new wind energy areas. The leasing of the existing wind energy areas Wilmington East & West by 1 July is important because former President Trump issued a ten year moratorium on off-shore wind development off of the North Carolina Coast starting July 1, 2022. The Governor's ask was to repeal that moratorium by July 1 and then start to look at additional wind energy areas and go through the deconfliction process that is critical before identifying any areas. We did receive a response from BOEM last week and the letter as we read it as their intent is to move forward with leasing and assuming that is the case we anticipate the following next steps from BOEM. We are waiting for them to announce these next steps. We think the process will be that BOEM will convene an Interagency or Renewable Energy Task Force which will be a federal task force with state and local officials, and stakeholders as well to share information and input on the plans to lease. We would anticipate BOEM interacting with the military aviation and installation assurance site clearing house to ensure that the proposed leased areas remain compatible with promoting national security these Wilmington East & West areas had been identified in 2014-2015 and we are now in 2021 so we would anticipate taking another look at them to receive any new data and talking with the clearing house again. Then there will be an opportunity for the Pentagon to weigh in on it for any potential military issues. There would be the Task Force and any proposed sale notice which would be open to any public comments and the after that any final sale notice, the lease auction and then a lease execution. In the near term we will see what BOEM announces for the next steps, but this gives you the

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phases or milestones that BOEM goes through with leasing. These are the key milestones. It is important to use that military interests are up front throughout the process. He appreciates this opportunity to speak to this Commission.

Discussion:

David Myers said that he had the pros, but he was going to state the cons. He heard Jeremy Tarr say North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. He said that he thinks that we will need a map at some point to show where Kitty Hawk, and East and West Wilmington are located. He has heard the comment about national security but when you are flying a jet and going out over the water, he needs to know and visualize what is the impact to the training. He is talking surface to surface and air. He agrees with energy, but he needs to see a map and what we are talking about here. He did not hear South Carolina and Florida mentioned. This could affect Cherry Point, Seymour Johnson, and other locations. He is just throwing it out there. Chairman Martin said that at the NC Commander's Council meeting today they did have a map of the locations. The Commanders are aware of the locations. He asked Kelly Jackson to get a copy of that member from the NCCC staff and send to all of the Commission members. Jeremy Tarr said that the areas on the map that went through the clearing house, start big and then shrink and get smaller. This takes into account the training and operations of all kinds that need to be deconflicted out of the lease areas. That has already happened for all of the three areas that we are talking about. He thinks that BOEM will do another round of that process throughout the coming months to ensure there are not any conflicts. Secretary Gaskin said that every Commander for the six installations is fully aware of where these three locations are and as he has told this Commission, he has gone to each installation and talked to those Commanders. The first question was about land and sea and any impacts to their mission. The only impact that was identified was with SOUTHCOM as it deals with land and anti-drug and not mission related. These are not new issues. The Clearing house, DoD and Commanders are all aware. He does agree that sharing the map will be a good idea. ET Mitchell said that she would like to see the map. Rep Cleveland asked Jeremy Tarr about the letter that was recently sent to clearing house. He asked if he could get a copy of that letter. Jeremy Tarr said that he would share that letter with the Commission but the topic on that letter was about land based wind.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Martin asked if there was any other business for the Commission? David Myers said that on Friday, May 21 he will be cutting a ribbon for his City River Park Bridge in Madison, NC. He will share the link with the Commission members. Kelly Jackson had a budget item to talk about. There is a conference coming up for Association of Defense Communities (ADC) in Washington, DC in July. The cost per person will be about \$2500. She has had some interest from Commission members to attend this conference. She wants to know if the Commission wants to send members to this event? She will need to get the attendees registered and pay the registration fee of approximately \$1000. Chairman Martin asked if we currently had funding for conferences in the budget? Kelly Jackson said there was funding to support this request. Chairman Martin told the Commission members to let Kelly Jackson know if they wanted to attend the Reconnect conference and then he would determine how many the Commission will send to the conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

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