

NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 4th Quarter Meeting of the NC Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC) Tuesday, November 17, 2020 via Microsoft Teams/Conference number 984-204-1487/Code 651 224 336#

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Hon Grier Martin, Public Member Rep. George Cleveland, NCGA Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired, Cherry Point Julie Daniels, Seymour Johnson AFB LtGen Walter Gaskin, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune David "Crockett" Long, Public Member Etteinne Mitchell, Cherry Point MG Rodney Anderson, USA Retired, Fort Bragg Timothy McClain, Public Member (by phone) COL Kirk Warner, USA, Retired, Fort Bragg MG Gerald A. Rudisill, Jr, USA Retired, National Guard Patricia Harris, USA Ret., Public Member COL David Hayden, USA Retired, Public Member Bernard Cofield, Coast Guard Retired, Elizabeth City Senator Harry Brown, NCGA MG Edward Reeder, USA, Retired, Fort Bragg Wesley Meredith, Fort Bragg Col. David Myers, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune Sally Ann Gupta, A/R for Sen. Harry Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hon Will Lewis, Cherry Point BG Arnold Gordon-Bray, USA Retired, Fort Bragg Dr. Scott LaFevers, Seymour Johnson AFB Hon Chuck Allen, Seymour Johnson AFB Sen Norman Sanderson, NCGA (Non-voting) Rep John Bell, NCGA (Non-voting) SgtMaj William Hatcher, USMC Retired, Camp Lejeune

EXOFFICIO MEMBERRS:

Will Best, Commerce (DOC)

Kelly Jackson, DMVA

NCCC:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville Chad Sydnor, Cassidy & Associates Ed Turlington, Brooks Pierce Barry Rhodes, Cassidy & Associates Larry Coleman, NCNG Association Brian Pierce, NC National Guard Manley James, Selective Service Doug Taggart, DPI MG Todd Hunt, NC National Guard Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg CYS/SLO Valerie Nasser, Craven Cty Schools Jamie Livengood, Wayne Cty Schools Jamie Norment, ACT Bob Coats, OSBM Rollie Sampson, Moore County Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg CYS/SLO Keith Wheeler, East Carolina University Christy Agner, Hometown Strong Jay Price, Public Radio Dennis Goodson, Seymour Johnson AFB William Herrold, DANC **Kevin Burch** Gregg Fambrough, SJAFB Greg McElveen, FSU Weston McCorkle, NC Dept of Agri Dewitt Hardee, NC Dept of Agri Jim McCleskey, Governor's office

Greg Delone, FSU

Marc Finlayson, ACT

Senator Jim Burgin, NCGA

Col Anthony Mullinax, SJAFB
Christopher Hailey, LA Grier Martin
Keith Martin, MECC
Kimberly Williams, NC4ME
Sean Cox, NC4ME
Shadia Young, Fort Bragg
Howard Lattimore, Fort Bragg Schools
Rhonda Murray
Scott Dorney, NCMBC
Katelyn Tinsley, Homefront Room Revival
Kevin Arata, City of Fayetteville
Deandra Lewis

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS:

Chairman Grier Martin called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 18 voting/non-voting members via Microsoft Teams/phone for a quorum. He asked if anyone had any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest in any of the matters coming in front of the NC Military Affairs Commission today or if in the course of the meeting you determine that you have a conflict of interest, please us know. He is happy to field any questions on that matter.

We have a few new members, and he would like to take this time to ask them to introduce themselves and tell the Commission members a little about themselves. He asked LtGen (R) Walter Gaskin to start. Walter Gaskin introduced himself. He said that he was a retired Marine and has spent 39 years in the Marine Corps. Subsequent to the Marine Corps he has been in business and a consultant. His last assignment in the Marine Corps was Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. In his 39 years he spent 25 years coming out of Camp Lejeune, NC. He has commanded from Division to Platoon. Chairman Martin asked Bernard Cofield to introduce himself. He said that he was retired from the US Coast Guard with 30 years of active duty service in the Coast Guard with the health care department. After he retired from the Coast Guard he started working for the Navy and now the Defense Health Agency as a health systems specialist. Chairman Martin said that it was great to have these two gentlemen as part of the NC Military Affairs Commission. We have been meeting by Microsoft Teams but cannot wait to be able to have our meetings in person again. It is great to have you both as new members.

CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the 3rd Quarter 2020 NCMAC meeting minutes dated August 18, 2020. A motion was made by Gerald Rudisill, seconded by Patricia Harris, and passed unanimously without discussion. The minutes were approved. Chairman Martin asked for a motion to approve the 3rd Quarter 2020 Legislative Affairs Committee meeting minutes dated July 23, 2020. A motion was made by Rep George Cleveland, seconded by ET Mitchell, and passed unanimously without discussion. The Legislative Affairs members in attendance at the meeting were Senator Brown, Rep Cleveland, and ET Mitchell for a quorum from that committee. The minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Martin said that we had a full agenda today and he will be moving the meeting along. He asked that everyone try to be as concise as possible. Chairman Martin called for public comments and announcements. Scott Dorney from NC Military Business Center (NCMBC) said that they had a past event, the Federal Construction Summit and it was a major success. They had over 400 people involved with that event. All seven packages for the hurricane recovery construction work at Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point have now been awarded. The details of the awards are on their website. They are going to have some teaming events during the first quarter and partnering with Jacksonville and Onslow County to help local businesses connect with the prime contractors for that work. They are also having an ongoing cyber security series and the next event is on December 10, 2020. There is a medical series ongoing via Webcon and the next event is on December 15-16, 2020 and doing business with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The main thing is there is a lot of misinformation flowing around about cyber security requirements with the Department of Defense (DoD). The DoD was moving to the cyber security maturity model certification. But then an interim Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) rule came out recently which requires that contractors meet 800-171 standards. There is a requirement to upload some process information. So, if any businesses in the NC Military Affairs Commission areas that have any questions on the security requirements, please send them to the NCMBC. We are coordinating with the interagency cyber security coordinating committee and we can get the correct answers to these businesses. There is a lot of misinformation from businesses about standards and timelines to be met and we can clarify that information for these small businesses. Chairman Martin asked if there would any other comments or announcements? Hearing no other comments, the time for public comments and open announcements is closed.

CHAIRMAN MARTIN THANK YOU: SENATOR HARRY BROWN

Chairman Martin introduced Senator Harry Brown. He said that he and Senator Brown came into the General Assembly (GA) together and elected in 2004. He said that Senator Brown got smart and decided to leave and enjoy his retirement. In the time that they have served together and on most of the controversial issues of the day they have been on opposite sides. But when it comes to support for North Carolina's military communities, families, and installations we have been in lock step and try to do what is best for those entities. It has been a joy to work with Senator Brown on all of those issues. He has been a great member of the NC Military Affairs Commission. He is one of the busiest men and has not been able to attend all of our meetings, but he kindly allowed Sally-Ann Gupta from his staff to work with us over the years and she has been an incredible member of the NC Military Affairs Commission. He said to Senator Brown that he appreciated his service and again thank you for allowing Ms. Gupta to work with the Commission.

Chairman Martin turned over the floor to Sally-Ann Gupta. Sally-Ann Gupta said that most everyone on this call knows Senator Brown. He has been widely regarded as the champion of military issues who is a member of the General Assembly on the Senate side. He is a tremendous supporter of everything that the NC Military Affairs Commission has brought to the Legislative Affairs committee, since its inception. He extended an invitation to her five years ago to join his staff and she was so privileged to do that. As everyone knows, he has represented Camp Lejeune and all of its interests. Not only the interests of his district but the interest of the military families and issues across the state. Without any further ado, I will let you hear from Senator Harry Brown.

Senator Harry Brown thanked Sally-Ann Gupta for all of the work that she has done for the NC Military Affairs Commission when he was tied up in budget meetings. Also, the great job that she has done for him in his office for all of those years. He said that when he thinks back on when he was elected, and Grier Martin was correct, it was back in 2004 that they were elected, and he did not think that he would serve for 16 years. It does seem like it has gone by pretty quickly. He thinks about all of the good things that they have been able to accomplish, especially for the military in that time period. Most of it was done through the NC Military Affairs Commission and the good work that this Commission has done for all those years. Some of the highlights for him has been when he went to the Pentagon with LtGen (R) Gary McKissick, and MajGen (R) Robert Dickerson. We had the chance to have lunch with General James Amos at the Pentagon and that was a great trip for him and something that he will always remember. Also being in a position that he was in the Senate and then to push legislation that would help the military in so many ways, has been important and he knows that it has made a huge difference for this state and those military communities and their families. He thinks that North Carolina is well regarded for taking care of its military and he thinks that it is because of the good work that we have been able to do. He knows that the Commission will continue to do that good work after he is gone. He will surely miss this work and it has been an honor for him to serve the only two counties that he has ever lived in. He grew up in Jones County but has worked in Onslow County all of his adult life. So, for him to represent those two Counties for 16 years was something he never dreamed would happen. Then for him to be the Chief Budget writer and the Majority Leader in the Senate was an honor that he did not know would happen for about ten years of that time. It has been an experience that he will never forget and one of the highlights of his life. As you get older, things do change. He has five grandchildren and two businesses that are still running, and he needs to pay more attention to all of those things. For him it was just time to go home. Fortunately, he was able to convince Mike Lazzara to run and he chaired their Military Affairs Commission in Onslow County before, He is very active on that committee and he will do a good job taking his position in the Senate representing Onslow and Jones Counties. He will also do a great job representing military families and all of the Counites across the State. We are fortunate in that regard. He just wants to thank all of the members of the Commission and all of them that have been active for so long for all of their good work.

Chairman Martin thanked Senator Brown again and taking the time out of his busy schedule to attend this meeting. We are going to have a more tangible presentation of our appreciation to you for your service to the NC Military Affairs Commission and NC Military Communities once we can have our meetings in person. On behalf of the entire NC Military Affairs Commission, we thank you so much for your service. Senator Brown said he appreciated the kind words, and he would miss everyone.

<u>DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (DMVA) UPDATE: SECRETARY LARRY HALL</u> Secretary Larry Hall was not able to attend the meeting today.

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

Mike Scalise from Marine Corps Installation - East (MCI-East) gave the members an update from the North Carolina Commander's Council (NCCC). We just completed our quarterly NCCC meeting and there were two themes that happened today. One of them was partnerships and we had briefs that were associated with governmental partnerships. These are both Governmental partnerships with the State of NC and our military bases working together. Then we followed up with the discussions with the

Commanders and he will talk about those later. When we talked about the partnerships, the initial discussion was with the NC Department of Information Technology. The briefing was from Pokie Harris about the NC 911 Next Generation. This has been an ongoing discussion for a long time. This is the new 911 upgraded system that first responders respond to. As you all know, your bases have a role in first responding and being able to respond to 911 calls. Those two systems are beginning to change. North Carolina is embracing a digital analogue system which is faster than the old system. The military installations are working with the State to get on that system. The Marine Corps bases are all in the process of working that issue at the Staff level. We wanted to ensure that the Commander's knew what NC 911 does, why they should care and why they should put their support behind embracing this new technology. This has everything to do with faster response time. This is a lengthy process, but we are behind it. We are linking the federal capabilities with North Carolina. At the end of the day, we want to be in compliance with NC's upgraded system. Next we had a brief from the NC Department of Transportation Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS). It has been one year since that last briefing from them. The installation Commanders are always concerned about UAS and the technology. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) still owns the airspace to include above a military installation. At the end of the day, what we got was an important brief. The goals are to ensure that the military air and the boundaries of the base are respected through the FAA. There is still a lot of work to do but we needed to have the Commanders updated. The final partnership brief on Intergovernmental Support Agreements (ISA). We have talked about this topic at the NCMAC in the past. They are considered contracts through the eyes of the Government Accountability Office (GAO). These contracts are something that can be shared use through your local municipalities and capabilities on the installations. At Camp Lejeune, we have one that is in conjunction with a tenet Command, which is the Navy Hospital, funded by the Commanding General, Camp Lejeune to get contact tracking. This contract is supported by personnel from Onslow County. We brought those three together and augmented our contract tracking capability within the Naval Hospital and aboard the installation. With the spikes in NC, that relationship is very important. That has been a big win.

He will close his comments with what the Commanders had to say. The goals were not to center everything around COVID because we had just attended the NC Governors Commander's discussion hosted by Secretary Hall. We wanted to make this an impactful meeting. But you cannot have a discussion on capabilities without talking about COVID. So, the theme across the services was training operations and readiness still continue despite COVID and all of its impact. They have not had a significant loss of capabilities from those platforms. Whether you are talking about a Marine Corps Base, Air Station, or the Coast Guard Station, they are still able to operate. Make no mistake that COVID has had an impact, but it is something they are working around. You have not seen any organization fail in their mission as a result from COVID. It is something that they are getting their arms around no differently than any other government organization in the great state of NC. When it comes to concerns that is around the holiday season. There is plenty of guidance on how to take care of their service members and that is not different than how we deal with this day to day. Another theme that they talked about is the impact that COVID has had on the schools. Schools are a readiness issue. At the end of the day, and you have a service member that has to stay home to watch their children vice going to work, that is going to impact readiness. Teleworking does not answer all of the questions. The recommendation for the schools is to keep those decisions at the lowest possible level. He knows that the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools at Camp Lejeune they are day on, stay

on. They have had their challenges but at the end of the day they have been able to keep a safe environment for our kids. We had a great meeting, and the next meeting will be on February 16 and in conjunction with the NC Military Affairs Commission meeting. He also said that one of the things that they submitted in their Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) to Secretary Hall's office was a discussion on the NC wind energy initiative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. What we wanted, as the policy is developed, is to get a feel for where NC installations fit within the review of any potential projects that come out of that. Sec Hall did acknowledge that as part of our SWOT he is going to provide some updated briefs once there is more granularity as this progresses. He will have something for us in the February timeframe. Chairman Martin said that he does not see that Secretary Hall has been able to join the meeting so he will move forward with the report from Frank Bottorff if there is no objection from the Commission members.

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

Frank Bottorff reported on the 4th Quarter Base Sustainability and Community Affairs Committee meeting that met on October 27, 2020. He will touch on a couple of highlights and then other comments from the meeting will be discussed later in this meeting. They did get an update from Kelly Jackson on the DMVA. She talked about the Governors' virtual roundtable that was held on October 28. It was a good event hosted by the Governor and the DMVA. Secondly they talked about the current Community Grants and the future Community Grants. He will talk more about the new Community Grants later during this meeting. The current grants are in the process of wrapping up. The two grants are for the City of Jacksonville for saltwater intrusion monitoring wells. That is in process still and working with the contractor to put in the last monitoring well. This grant is close to a conclusion. The second grant is for Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) and Carteret County and a mission overlay district project. That project has wrapped up and the final deliverable has been delivered. They are just waiting on the final bill so they can close out with the State. Both of those grants are complete or near completion. The next was a budget update and we will talk about the budget later. We also received an update on the Census and now we are in the review phase and opportunities for challenges. We will also have a Census briefing later today. We received an update from Dewitt Hardee on Sentinel Landscape, and he will give the Commission that update today. We had a good update from the Department of Commerce from Will Best. He gave us an update on a couple of items. The Rural Development Division of Commerce put out a survey to small businesses throughout the State and they had a good response rate for that survey. The Matrix Design Group continues to work on the Dare County Bombing Range Compatible Use Implementation Plan. It is ongoing and had fallen behind due to contractual issues but now going smoothly. Will Best also made two announcements about jobs. The first was for the Triple Au Design (TAD) Gear that is a popular clothing company that is now touching the military. They are expanding in Old Fort, NC and will provide about 70 new jobs. There is also an East Coast expansion from a West Coast company. Pratt & Whitney announced an expansion in Asheville, NC for 800 jobs. We also had an update from the NCCC and installation updates from the Committee members. He wanted to thank Scott Dorney for his comments about all of the funding that is hitting Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune. Also, that all of the contracts have been let for the Hurricane Florence recovery money. That is a sizeable amount of contracting going on and when you add that to the installation work the introduction of the F-35 at Cherry Point, there is a significant amount of military construction going on in this area.

QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL): KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner reported on the 4th Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting that met on October 20, 2020 and 25 attendees. There is nothing more fun than to have a lively discussion about K-12 education and quality of life issues on our installations. You are all welcome to join our Quality of Life meetings. We have representation from the following counties, Cumberland, Craven, Wayne, Moore, Onslow, Cherry Point, Jacksonville, Camp Lejeune, and the National Guard. One of the briefings that we had was from Nick Sojka, Chairman for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, and the Cumberland County Board Attorney. He gave us an update on the National Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). One of their major issues was including the National Guard and Reserves in the Compact. Also, everyone is concerned about the stop movement order and the affects from that. We have been on top of that from day one. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the local school systems have worked hard on this matter for families moving out of NC and into NC. We had great updates, one the affects to the students reference the stop movement order and COVID such as behavioral health matters. The educators had some solutions for these issues with a variety of afterschool programs. We have Howard Lattimore from the Cumberland County schools looking at this and looking for solutions to promote the wellbeing of our military students. We had a good report from Shadia Young, Youth advocate. We then shifted into the Purple Star Program and that has always been a feather in our cap. We are one of ten states that have this program. We also have a Purple Up Day scheduled for April 16, 2021. All of the installations will be supporting this day. We also received an update from Doug Taggart, DPI. The military identifier information will be due in January 2021. We continue to discuss Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) at our meetings lead by Patricia Harris. It was a great discussion from our folks, and you are always welcome to join our meetings. Chairman Martin encouraged all of the members to attend a Quality of Life committee meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DAVID HAYDEN

David Hayden reported for the 4th Quarter Economic Development Committee meeting that met on October 13, 2020. He said that with the departure of Senator Harry Brown we are going to miss him and also especially Sally-Ann Gupta. They have done so much for this Commission and worked very hard. He hopes that the State of NC or someone in an elected office finds someplace for her in the near future. She has been an incredible asset to this Commission and to the State of NC. At the Economic Development quarterly meeting they had an update from Jamie Norment for Fleet Readiness Center-East (FRC-East) and Cherry Point. He always had information to share with the committee about the use of Hurricane Florence Recovery Funds. He talked about three different projects that are being done at Cherry Point which are the Gate entrance, Fitness Center and F-35 Hangar. Also, about Scott Dorney's comments about the seven contracts being fully funded and that they are looking to distribute the money, it looks like great news for a good economic recovery in the Eastern part of NC. He also said that the Global Transpark (GTP) is getting some new tenants. The Navy is moving some work there and also the Draken Corporation. That is good news to share. We also got a good report from Arnold Gordon-Bray about Fort Bragg and the Fayetteville Community. He informed us about a big project out at Muddy Lake at Camp McCall. They are creating some floating solar panels. This major project is going to create about \$53M worth of savings over the projected life span of these solar panels. This reduces the landing zone on the big Muddy Lake but provides them more electric power generation

there. They also received approval to renovate six barracks. One thing that is a concern and should be shared with the Legislature, that the NC Department of Transportation (NC DOT) did not receive a Bill Grant for the needed \$24M worth of repair to the outer training loop. The NC Department of Transportation indicated that they were seeking other sources. He said that he has driven those roads for many years, and it is critical to maintain those roads for the readiness of the forces that are assigned to Fort Bragg and visiting forces from other installations. Hopefully, NC DOT can find the additional funds needed to upgrade the outer training loop roads. The Deputy Garrison Commander, Justin Mitchell can hopefully introduce us to the new Garrison Commander at a NC Military Affairs Commission meeting in the future. The Economic Development Committee had a brief from Dr. Lee, Director from Army Research Office (ARO). The Army has a research office in the Triangle, and he can be a resource for us. We also talked about the Military Tax Exemption issue. He said that he thought that Senator Burgin and Representative Szoka both were going to introduce bills about the military tax exemption topic. He did not want to say too much about this topic in case Senator Burgin was going to speak at the meeting today. David Hayden said that he did speak to the former Adjutant General for the NC National Guard, Greg Lusk recently. He is now working with the NC employment task force and he will be speaking at the next Economic Development committee meeting. He is working to find employment for transitioning veterans in NC. One of the last things that he wanted to address is about the military state tax exemption. He is working to create a scope of work should the Commission pursue Request for Proposal (RFP).

He also wanted to talk about the National Guard Association of the United State (NGAUS) Conference in Charlotte in September 2021. We have been asked if we want to be a sponsor/partner for that event. He was asked by Chairman Martin to look at that information and make a recommendation to the Full Commission. This is going to be a major conference with over 500 attendees and similar to the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) but on a smaller scale. There will be Adjutant General's from all of the States in attendance. This would provide an opportunity for the NC Military Affairs Commission to let them know about our mission and presence in this State. There are several levels of partnership of support for the NGAUS conference from Convention presenting partner for \$100,000 to Piedmont for \$10,000 which he will be recommending. You were all given information on all of the partnership levels and what the Commission would receive for being a Piedmont partnership. One of the benefits of signage is that it will tell others what the NC Military Affairs Commission does and there are invitations to several events for networking. The Commission would get their bang for their buck at this level. He does not think that paying for a higher level justified the additional funding. His recommendation to the Commission members is the Piedmont for \$10,000 level as a partner for this event. This level does maximize our ability to network with all of the attendees and to let them know about our organization. He said that he thinks we are authorized to do this in review of our statutory authority under the NC statues. He looked at several of those and he concluded what he thought had a bases for authorizing this type of public-private partnership and it also supports our federal advocacy for lobbying support in the state. He also said that Kelly Jackson recommended we create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Guard Association and then move forward from there with that funding. Gerald Rudisill said that this is a grand event and 45,000 attendees. This is supported by Army and Air Guard from all of the States and many high ranking officials. There is no downside to support of this event and hopes the NCMAC will also support this event. Chairman Martin asked if there were any other comments or discussion? Frank Bottorff said that from the budget side, he thought this

fit in to both marketing and economic development efforts. He said that if there was a motion to support the Piedmont level that it should come from out line item of Marketing/STRATCOM where we have \$200,000 or the General Fund, fund balance which is the unbudgeted amount that we still have in savings. Chairman Martin asked if Frank Bottorff had a preference of where the money should come from. Frank Bottorff said that he thought the easiest place to take it from right now is out of the Marketing/STRATCOM funding of \$200,000. Frank Bottorff made a motion to support the Piedmont level of \$10,000 for this event from the Marketing/STRATCOM budget line item and seconded by Kirk Warner. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion on this item? Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: SALLY-ANN GUPTA

Sally-Ann Gupta said that the Legislative Affairs Committee did not meet as the Legislature was not in session. She is going to yield her time to Senator Jim Burgin, and he has a special address for the members of the NC Military Affairs Commission. She asked for a few minutes of personal privilege to address the Commission. She said that she wanted to tell everyone that five years ago she had the good fortune to be brought on to Senator Brown's staff in Raleigh. Then he gave her the honor to support the NC Military Affairs Commission in his stead when he was unable to attend the meetings himself. She has been helping the Commission for five years in any ways that she could to support the operation of the Commission. It has been her privilege and honor. She thought that she has walked a little taller and prouder after every one of the meetings because she has enjoyed seeing every one of the members and supporting what is among one of the most important of missions that are State has in protecting and preserving our Installations and Bases. They are the jewels in our State's crown. This Commission has meant a lot to her over the years. Some of the members that have been here a few years have seen her through the birth of both of her children. It has been wonderful to support the Commission.

Sally-Ann Gupta said that she wanted to introduce the Commission members to Senator Jim Burgin. He represents Harnett, Johnston, and Lee Counties. The military and mental and behavioral health issues are ones of keen interest to him. As we know through the works of the Quality of Life Committee and Chairman Kirk Warner, sometimes the military and behavioral health issues are interrelated. They sometimes overlap in our military families. These are both issues that Senator Burgin is excited and proud to address. He previously sponsored Senate Bill 188 last session. This was on the military state income tax relief bill. Everyone on the Commission has been supportive over the years of the idea of making sure that military retirements are not subject to State income tax. This is a bill that addresses just that issue. It also addresses the interest of a number of other stakeholders who have had opinions on this issue over the years. Chiefly being civil servants, and state employees. She wants to introduce Senator Burgin and he will tell you about his bill and his plan to re-introduce it in the next session. He will also answer any questions that you may have.

Senator Jim Burgin said he appreciated this opportunity to speak to the Commission members this afternoon. There have been a lot of zoom meetings going on, but he is glad to speak to this group. He is the son of a WWII Veteran and he tells everyone that as a young man he learned from a Veteran. His dad was proud of his military service in the Army. He still has a box in his office of this father's medals and WWII hat. He also has his canes that he used before he died at the age of 90 years old. He was

one of those guys that we all loved, and he was a great provider. His parents were married 69 years and died within four months of each other. He has a lot of respect for the military. Part of Fort Bragg is in his district. He was a County Commissioner for eight years and he knows the Fort Bragg Commander and Deputy Commander. He has interacted with them for many years which has given him a real love for the military and all of the folks in his district. We have talked for years that we want to be the most Military Friendly State, but we have not shown the military that. One of the ways that we have not shown that is through the way we treat their retirement. He introduced a bill last year, but due to the budget and COVID no one wanted to address the bill. We are going to come at it a little different this time. He has already talked to the clerk and he wants this bill to be number two or three. The first bill will be a rules bill but after that, this will be one of the first bills. The bill will be called the Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees. The first part of it deals with the military and when we get to the 2018 budget amount of \$23.838 Billion it will self-trigger. The reason we did that is, so he does not have to vote on this thing multiple years or vote on it and then people say well there is not enough money there to do this. It will be about a \$29 Million hit to the NC revenues. In talking to folks, staff, and leadership, everyone felt like we could pass something by putting a trigger out into the future. In talking to state and federal employees, they said what about us? He does not want to get into another situation of a long litigation and go through the Bailey case again. That would be complex, time consuming and expensive. He put in a second trigger that when we add another \$400 Million to the revenue, it will trigger the state and federal employees to be exempt. That seems to be satisfying everyone and we have a two-step process. If we pass this, then late in 2021 or 2020 and we meet the revenue mark, then the next January it will automatically trigger. Then when we grow the \$400 Million because the state and federal part is a \$200 Million hit to the revenue. When we grow another \$400Million in revenue it triggers. When it triggers it is done. We cannot go back and take it back. He has the bill prepared and everyone has looked at it. The leadership has looked at it and it is ready to go. He is waiting for the date in January when we can introduce it. He thinks that part of it is all of us talking to everyone. We need to talk to ever member of the House and the Senate. He has already been talking to people and explaining the bill. He thinks this will be a good thing. It will keep our retirees here and we need the workforce in NC. You all know that NC is poised to grow tremendously and once we come out of this COVID situation and we get our politics settled done, this not only keeps the military folks here to work, but it will also bring in these military companies that want to be around retirees. He thinks the bill does a couple of things. It will be good for the entire State, and it will stop the flow of our valuable resource military retirees. He plans to take this another step further, so as soon as we get this settled, he does not want to tax any retiree in the State of NC. He thinks that would be a great message, that any money that you earned and paid taxes when you earned it and take it out, you do not have to pay another tax on it. He is happy to answer any questions and would appreciate any feedback on this and any support when this is introduced.

Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions or comments for Senator Burgin? David Hayden said that his has been one of the initiatives that the Commission has been pursing. That fact that you are including all retirees is critical. If we had any hairs that we were splitting in our discussions it was on that item. As a retired military member, who was grandfathered in previously, he has known so many people who have retired and said that his is a big issue when they make that decision. He applauded his efforts and Rep Szoka's efforts in the House. He wants to encourage our Commission members to stand behind this effort and to join in in any way that we can to support this legislation to go through next

year Rodney Anderson said that he wanted to thank Senator Burgin for this important legislation. He has long thought that we should move this forward. It is good to know that others are fully behind this. He had one question. On the two parts of the bill are they severable? Does it all fail? He is concerned that the second part of it may have some problems and weigh down the veteran part of the bill. Senator Burgin said currently it is all together and he did that, so we do not end up in another lawsuit. He thinks that if we separate the two parts we will end up back in court. When he first got to the Senate he started to look at this. He started to have meetings with the State and Federal employees. He has always said that he wanted to do the military first as another way to show that we appreciate our military. He was told very quickly that if he does not do something for the state and federal employees there would be another lawsuit. He has heard that from multiple folks. He decided to back up to see how this could be done. So, he thought about how this could be done to keep everyone on board. One of the positives is that we have all three groups (military, state and federal) working for the same end. Once the legislation is passed, all we are waiting on is revenue to grow to trigger it. He said that he had buy in from leadership and they like the idea because we do not have to take it out of money that we do not have since we are \$4.5 Billion short right now. He will begin next week working on some things and we keep hoping that our revenue numbers will keep growing but keeping our economy shut down has really hurt us. We are seeing just enough businesses that are reporting bad revenues, so he does not have the latest numbers. They receive a weekly report that shows how much money they have on hand and how much is in the rainy day fund. They still have a big hole to fill. He thinks that at the best this is going to trigger, and the earliest it would trigger in January of 2022. We know it cannot trigger now. If COVID can get settled in the next two-three months and we hit the ground running in January/February, he thinks we can get up to those revenue numbers to trigger it. Rodney Anderson said that was going to be his next question. He prays that we will get a vaccine and follow the protocols that are necessary. So, when we go into the new year, we are starting to move again. His question was given where we are now, do you project that we will be able to make those numbers in 2021? Senator Burgin said that in a perfect world, and you told him that COVID is not an issue and we can all agree to get along, he thinks it could be done. If not, it will be the next year. He feels certain that it will be in the next two years no matter what happens. In a two year time window, we will resolve this. Rodney Anderson said he appreciated the information, and he would add another prayer so that we get along. Senator Burgin said that he wore a pin every day that said pray first. If you ever see him, please ask him for one of his pins. Chairman Martin thanked Senator Burgin for taking the time to speak to the NC Military Affairs Commission and updating us on this legislation. He said that many of them such as Representative Cleveland, Senator Brown and himself have been working on this matter and trying to get this passed under both Parties in control with no success. If Senator Burgin can get it done he will be a true hero. Chairman Martin said that there are people on this Commission scattered throughout the State and are engaged in their communities. To get this done you will need the vote of your colleagues in the Senate and also the House of Representatives. The Commission members are out in their communities and will be very willing to help by bending the ears of Senator and Representatives in their communities. He said that this can only get done with grass roots efforts throughout the State. The Commission members of the NC Military Affairs Commission stand ready to help you in any way. Chairman Martin said that he wanted to again thank Sally-Ann Gupta for all of her hard work. She has been a valued member of this Commission and she will be missed.

BYLAWS WORKING GROUP: KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner said that he had a couple items for the members. He is going to get the working group back together to talk about two issues. The first is the emergency action funding approval and authority and providing that to the Executive Steering Group (ESG). Essentially you would have the authority subsequent to ratification of the Commission to act upon any emergency issue or funding approval that requires action in such time that cannot be delayed for notice and action of the Full Commission. The second items were with the conversion of the Commission to a covered board, we may want to come up with some language to address that change. Those are the two issues that they will be discussing.

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP: FRANK BOTTORFF

Vice Chairman Frank Bottorff updated the Commission members on the budget. . NC Military Affairs Commission FY 20-21 Budget Approval and Contract Review Schedule sent out prior to the Commission meeting.

	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
Expenses:			
Administration	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 283.12	\$ 40,000.00
Conferences	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 40,000.00
Lobbying Contract	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 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	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 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		\$ 163,033,12	
YTD remaining		\$ 1,036,966.88	
Fund Balance	\$ 1,693,665.88		

Frank Bottorff said this information had been emailed to the members prior to the meeting. The Commission started the year with an appropriation of \$2,000,000 and brought forward \$893,665.88. The budgeted amounts are in the first column labeled 2021 Budget for a total budget of \$1,200,000 and leaving \$1,693,665.88 in the fund balance. The \$2 million is a two year appropriation to cover two years. We have \$2.8 million to cover two years and we put \$1.2 million in the budget for this year. The second column is 20-21 expenses, and our current expenses are for the lobbying service, and Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC). The total expenses to date and adding the \$10,000 approved today for the NGAUS conference, \$173,033.12. There is nothing in the expenditures that was out of the

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ordinary and we are on track for this year. The last column is the 2021-2020 budget and that has not approved yet. He asked if there were any questions on the original budget and where we are to date? There were no questions.

Recurring Partnerships and Initiatives Scheduled of Review

Sentinel Landscapes \$150,000 MOU expired Nov 2020, renewal required

NC4ME \$ 40,000 Renewal required

Community Grants Biennial \$225,000 Grant Review Committee, need to approve funding

Cassidy and Associates Lobbying \$330,000 Funding approved at Aug meeting thru March 2021 EDPNC \$120,000 MOU valid thru Dec 2021 and funding approved at Aug

meeting thru June 2021

Budget Approvals:

Motion and second to approve the following:

1. Sentinel Landscapes \$150,000 MOU with Department of Agriculture

2. NC4ME \$ 40,000 Sole Source thru DOA

3. Community Grants \$129,000 Contracts thru OSMB/Grant Manager

Other Potential Expenditures:

- 1. Request for Proposal (RFP): Design and Lead a collaborative effort with business, academia, and community enterprises to socialize, improve and help achieve NCMAC economic development related strategic goals
- 2. Exempt Military Retirement pay from Taxation: On hold at this time.
- 3. Funding for National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS): MOU with the NC National Guard Association.

Chairman Martin asked for questions and/or comments on the budget information presented by Frank Bottorff? There were no questions from the Commission members.

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 Response:

- 2020 Census data collection ended October 15, 2020.
- 64.3% of North Carolina households self-responded to the 2020 Census.
- NC ranked 36th nationally
- Census staff accounted for 36.5% of households through Non-Response Follow-Up (i.e. vacant, proxy interviews, administrative records, and imputation)
- Total response/resolution 99.9%

2020 Self Response Rate October 27, 2020:

North Carolina – 64.3%

United States – 67.0%

2020 Census Response Rate Tracker – https://2020census.gove/en/response-rates.html

Upcoming Timeline:

Data Releases:

December 31, 2020 Apportionment Release

After April 1, 2021 PL94-171 Redistricting Release

Challenge Opportunities:

October 1, 2021-July 1, 2023 Count Question Resolution (CQR)

- limited scope

- free

2022 Special Census

full/partial redo of Census processLocal governments pay entire cost

Contact Information:

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

CASSIDY & ASSOCIATES: CHAD SYDNOR

Chad Sydnor gave a presentation for Cassidy and Associates.

FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

- Both the House and Senate have completed their versions of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- Approximately 5 issues left at Big 4 Level Currently negotiating
- Both bills contain language to create a commission to rename bases that are named after Confederate generals.*
- President Trump has vowed to veto the final bill if it contains provisions to rename bases.
- Expect final passage after the November election.
- Important provisions for NC:
- 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.
- Senate version authorizes \$51.9M in military construction to build a new fitness center and pool at MCAS Cherry Point.
- Senate version clarifies that the Navy is responsible for programming and funding all military construction at Fleet Readiness Centers.

FY21 Appropriations:

- Only the House has marked up and passed appropriations bills.
- Senate posted appropriations bills on November 10th, but none have been marked up or passed.
- The House has passed 10/12 appropriations bills.
- They have passed defense and military construction appropriations.
- They have not passed homeland security appropriations.
- North Carolina had 3 projects pulled forward from unfunded requirements lists and 2 projects receive additional funding to complete.

Installation	Project	PB Request	FY21 House	FY21 Senate
Army Reserve – Asheville, NC	Reserve Center	\$24M	\$24M	\$24M
Camp Lejeune	II MEF Operations Center	\$20M	\$20M	\$20M
Camp Lejeune *Cost to Complete	Hadnot Point, Water Treatment Plant Replacement	\$50.5M	\$50.5M	Funding included but not delineated by project
Fort Bragg	SOF Group HQ	\$53.1M	\$53.1M	\$53.1M
Fort Bragg	SOF Military Working Dog Facility	\$17.7M	\$17.7M	\$17.7M
Fort Bragg	SOF Operations Facility	\$43M	\$43M	\$43M
Fort Bragg *UFR	SOTF Chilled Water Upgrade	\$0	\$6.1M	\$6.1M
MCAS Cherry Point *Cost to Complete	F-35B Vertical Lift Fan Test Facility	\$7M	\$7M	Funding included but not delineated by project
MCAS Cherry Point *UFR	Fitness Center Replacement and Training Pool	\$0	\$51.9M	Funding included but not delineated by project
CGB Elizabeth City *UFR	Runway Repair	\$0	\$25M	\$18M

Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) Updates:

- Both the House and Senate have funded the DCIP account for FY21.
- House funded at \$50M, which is the same level as FY20.
- Senate funded at \$100M.
- Will have to advocate for the higher spending level as that will allow more projects to be funded in FY21.

Continuing Resolution:

- Fiscal Year 2021 began on October 1, 2020.
- Congress passed Continuing Resolution (CR) just prior to the new FY that lasts until December 11, 2020.
- Question is whether Congress can consolidate the House and Senate Appropriations bills into an
 Omnibus or CR-Omnibus before December 11 or whether they will have to extend the CR.
- CR-Omnibus A combination of another CR and omnibus package. This is a possibility with controversial departments like Homeland Security. They could fund certain parts of the government on a year-long CR and others with appropriations.
- If Congress were to fail to pass appropriations or another CR by December 12th, it would trigger a government shutdown.

Comments from Barry Rhodes, Cassidy & Associates. He said that it seemed like from both the Democratic and Republican perspective they really want to get these bills done before the new President is elected. He thinks that Chad Sydnor gave a good presentation.

ELECTION RESULTS UPDATE: CHAD SYDNOR AND JIM MCCLESKEY

Jim McCleskey said that he wanted to say to Chad Sydnor and the entire Cassidy & Associates team how much he appreciates the work that they are doing. He said that Chad Sydnor is a professional and well known in the area. He is well informed and well liked. Jim McCleskey said that he appreciates the force multiplier that Chad Sydnor and his team bring to the Commission, the Washington, DC office, and the State of North Carolina. Jim McCleskey said that he wanted to make a couple of comments. He said that we are all aware of the broad outlines of the election results. He has been in Washington, DC since the mid 1980's since he graduated from college, other than four years in Raleigh in the 1990's. He has been in the DC office for the State of North Carolina since the late 1990's. As of January 1991, it will be the first time in his professional career that we will not have at least one first term Senator representing our State in the United States Senate. As an old Senate staffer himself, as many of you know seniority and experience count. As soon as the election clarified he reached out to Senator Tillis and his senior team to congratulate them. This is a first in a long time that we have had a succession of a one term Senators. Now we have two re-elected Senators. One of them is quite senior and the other one is in the middle of the mix and this is a real plus for NC. He thought that was important to highlight to the Commission members. He also wants to mention on what we believe to be the incoming administration and leadership. It is still not formally official, but we will see how things play out. The likelihood is that a woman and a person in the Washington circles who has significant experience in the Department is going to lead the Department of Defense (DoD). Michele Flournoy, her history goes back to the 1990's in the administration. Some of the Commission members may be aware that she was part of the transition team for the DoD in the 2008 cycle because of the work she had done for the State and the National Governor's Association (NGA). The Transition Team Lead was Michele Flournoy. He has some personal awareness of her style. When she led that team her husband Scott Gould, Navy Captain, lead the Veterans Administration (VA) transition team and then he was later Deputy Secretary of VA. She was the Under Secretary for Policy in DoD. We found out about halfway through the transition that Secretary Bob Gates would be staying in that role. Then Michele Flournoy joined the senior leadership

of the Department. He believes that the premium then in 08 and retaining Bob Gates in that role is similar to the dynamics this time. The sense of need for some stability and experience. He sees Michele Flournoy himself, and others may see this differently, as an advocate and a person who understands the importance of American power and American leadership. She can be a kind of stability and strategic vision that will be both refreshing and reassuring to the men and women of our Armed Services and to the Nation. Also, to our Allies and the world. We are excited to see if it plays out this way. He thinks the betting line is that she is the most likely candidate. When he was on the transition team he did have face time with Dr. Jill Biden and her staff at that time,. She was a military mom and her interest in military families. He thinks that will be an area where we will see some interesting things. He will close and associate himself with the remarks of Sally-Ann Gupta. He was present at a Commission meeting five years ago that he thinks was Sally-Ann Gupta's first meeting. He appreciates what she had to say about this group. We are the most military friendly state in the Nation but as Senator Burgin said we have to keep it true. We have to prove it over and over. He appreciates the work that the Commission does. He will hand it back over to Chad Sydnor.

State of North Carolina Politics following the 2020 Election:

President Elect Joe Biden:

- Electoral College With all states called.
- President-Elect Biden 306
- President Trump 232
- North Carolina went to President Trump.
 - 50% Trump
 - 48.7% Biden

Defense Policy Differences:

	President-elect Joe Biden	President Donald Trump
Arms Control and Nuclear Weapons	Would rejoin Iran nuclear deal if it returns to compliance as in original agreement Promised to renew New START Would likely scale back Trump's nuclear buildup End military support for Saudi-led war in Yemen	Withdrew the US from the Iran Nuclear deal Continue modernizing nuclear arsenal Ruled out extending New Start as-is Increasing US arms sales is key priority and advanced several sales suspended under Obama
Defense Budget	 Does not foresee major cuts to US defense spending, but would likely face pressure from the left to reign in spending Prioritize innovation and nonmilitary investments 	Has championed record defense spending Diverted billions of dollars from defense to build the border wall
Presence in Middle East	Vowed to bring US combat troops back from Iraq and Afghanistan Prefers small-scale ops to large troop deployments	Vowed to bring US combat troops back from Iraq and Afghanistan Entered into peace talks with the Taliban
European Allies	Pledges to fix strained alliances Review Trump's troop movements out of Germany	Tensions with NATO have strained as Trump pushes to "get allies to pay their fair share"
Global competition	Named China as the greatest strategic threat to US Would take a tougher stance on Russia than Trump	National Defense Strategy named Russia as a "great power" competitor, but most economic and military action has focused on China

U.S. Senators:

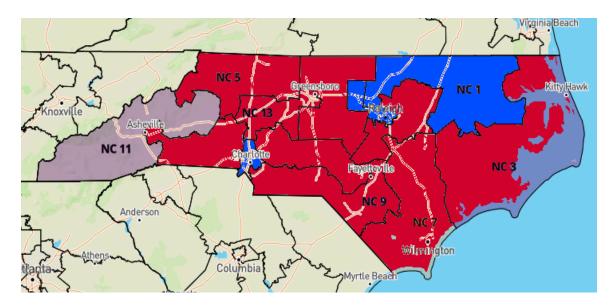
Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)

- What will his last 2 years in the Senate hold?
- Department of Justice (DOJ) Investigation clouding his future.
- Chairman of Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)?

Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)

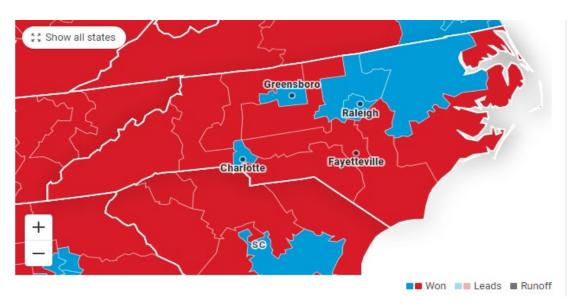
- Not expected to change committees.
- Will continue to chair Military Personnel (MILPERs).

U.S. House of Representatives: Before 2020 Election 10R to 3D



- Rep. George "G.K." Butterfield, Jr. (D-NC-01): Since July 21, 2004
- Rep. George Holding (R-NC-02): First elected in 2016, Retiring after 116th Congress.
- Rep. Gregory Murphy (R-NC-03): Since September 17, 2019
- Rep. David Price (D-NC-04): First elected in 1996.
- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-05): First elected in 2004.
- Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC-06): First elected in 2014, retiring after 116th Congress.
- Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-07): First elected in 2014.
- Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-08): First elected in 2012.
- Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC-09): Since September 17, 2019
- Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10): First elected in 2004.
- NC-11 was vacant for the 2020 Election.
- Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12): Since November 12, 2014
- Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC-13): First elected in 2016.

U.S. House of Representatives: After 2020 Election 8R to 5D



Rep. George "G.K." Butterfield, Jr. (D-NC-01): Since July 21, 2004

Rep. Elect Deborah Ross (D-NC-02):

Rep. Gregory Murphy (R-NC-03): Since September 17, 2019

Rep. David Price (D-NC-04): First elected in 1996.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-05): First elected in 2004.

Rep. Elect Kathy Manning (D-NC-06):

Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-07): First elected in 2014.

Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-08): First elected in 2012.

Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC-09): Since September 17, 2019

Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10): First elected in 2004.

Rep. Elect Madison Cawthorn (R-NC-11)

Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12): Since November 12, 2014

Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC-13): First elected in 2016.

Deborah Ross (D-NC-02):

- She and her husband, Steve Wrinn, are active in the Raleigh community where they have worked and lived for over 25 years.
- Juris Doctor (JD) from UNC-Chapel Hill, civil rights lawyer.
 - o Private practice includes renewable energy advocacy for a sustainable future.
- Won a seat in the N.C. House of Representatives in 2002, where she served for more than ten
 years.
 - Deborah served as both Majority and Minority Whip and chaired the Judiciary, Ethics and Election Laws Committees.
- Ran for U.S. Senate in 2016 against Senator Burr and lost.

Kathy Manning (D-NC-06):

- Graduate of Harvard University and the University of Michigan Law School
- Moved with her husband to Greensboro, NC in 1987.
 - Raised their three children in Greensboro.
- After serving as a partner at a major law firm for 15 years, Kathy left to start her own small business.
- Kathy helped spearhead the effort to build the Greensboro Children's Museum, Triad Stage, and the new Tanger Center for the Performing Arts.
- Recipient of awards, including the 2014 Charles Duncan McIver Award given by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to honor distinguished North Carolina public servants and the 2013 Jim Roach Downtown Person of the Year Award presented by Downtown Greensboro.

Madison Cawthorn (R-NC-11):

- Received a full ride ROTC scholarship to NC State and was also nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy by Rep. Mark Meadows in 2014.
- Nearly died in a tragic automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed and in a wheelchair in 2014.
- Owner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a real estate investment company and is also a motivational speaker.

House Armed Services Committee:

- Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) will continue to chair the HASC.
- Republicans will have a new Ranking Member.
 - o Current ranking member, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) is retiring.
 - o Most likely replacements are Reps. Mike Turner (R-OH) or Mike Rogers (R-AL).
- In addition to Rep. Thornberry retiring, the following House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Members retired or lost re-election:

House Armed Services Committee: In order of seniority

Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) – Retiring

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) - Retiring

Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) - Retiring

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) - Retiring

Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL) – Ran for Senate, lost primary.

Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA) – Retired

Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK) – Lost re-election

Rep. Xochiti Torres Small – (D-NM) – Lost re-election

Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-MI) – Retiring

House Armed Services Committee:

- Undecided Races:
- Rep. Gil Cisneros (D-CA)
 - o Trailing Young Kim (R) 50.6% to 49.4%

- Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY)
 - o Trailing Claudia Tenney (R) 54.4% to 43.4%

House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee:

- Chairman Pete Visclosky (D-IN) is retiring
- Most likely replacements are:
 - o Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MI)
 - o Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)
 - o Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

Senate Armed Services Committee:

- Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) will continue to chair Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), assuming Republicans win one or both Georgia Senate races.
- Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI) will also remain as Ranking Member.
- 2 SASC Members lost re-election:
 - Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ)
 - Senator Doug Jones (D-AL)
- Undecided Senator David Perdue (R-GA)
 - January 5th run-off election

Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee:

- Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) will continue to chair Senate Appropriations Committee -Defense (SAC-D), assuming Republicans win one or both of the Georgia Senate races.
- Ranking Member Richard Durbin (D-IL) will also remain as Ranking Member.
- Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is retiring.
- Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) is retiring.
- SAC-D is typically the most sought-after appropriations subcommittee and open seats are
 offered to Senators on the Appropriations Committee based on seniority.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES:

Sentinel Landscapes: Dewitt Hardee

Overview of Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection Trust Fund (ADFPTF) Funding, Contracts, Easements, & Staffing

North Carolina Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection Program

- House Bill 607 established the NC ADFP Trust Fund in 2005.
- To Fund Projects to Encourage the Preservation of Qualifying Agricultural, Horticultural, and Forestlands to Foster the Growth, Development, and Sustainability of Family Farms
- Established Trust Fund Advisory Committee to Advise the Commissioner of Agriculture
- Fund Conservation Easements
- Fund Agricultural Plans & Development Projects
- Eligible Grantees
 - Non-Profit Conservation Organizations
 - Counties

Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection (ADFP) Trust Fund Advisory Committee: Chairman Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture

Farmers:

- •William Holbrook, Farmer Appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore
- •Tom Sephton, Farmer Appointed by the Speaker of the House
- •Stuart Pierce, Farmer Appointed by Governor

Agencies / Universities:

- •**Ted Godwin**, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Johnston County Commissioner
- •Jimmy Johnson, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
- •Dr. Mike Yoder, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, N.C.S.U
- Dr. Mohamed Ahmedna, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, N.C. A&T State University
- •Tony Copeland, Secretary of Commerce

Agricultural Organizations:

- •Jimmy Gentry, NC State Grange
- •John Hatcher, N.C. Forestry Association
- •Myles Payne, N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- •Kelli Dale, Rural Advancement Foundation International USA
- •Rusty Painter, Conservation Trust for North Carolina
- Erica Peterson, N.C. Agribusiness Council
- •Darrell K. Tennie, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
- •Steve Woodson, N.C. Farm Bureau
- •Vacant, NC Rural Economic Development Center

Overview of Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection Trust Fund (ADFPTF) Central Office Staff:

Director: Dewitt Hardee - dewitt.hardee@ncagr.gov - 919-707-3069
Assistant Director: Evan Davis - evan.davis@ncagr.gov - 919-707-3072
Office Manager: Veronica Jamison - veronica.jamison@ncagr.gov - 919-707-3071
Budget Officer: David Mitchell - <u>david.w.mitchell@ncagr.gov</u> - 919-707-3073
Document Specialist: Laura Brookshire - <u>laura.brookshire@ncagr.gov</u> - 919-707-3074
Assistant General Counsel: Jon Lanier - <u>jonathan.lanier@ncagr.gov</u> - 919-707-3011
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Overview of Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection Trust Fund (ADFPTF) Field Staff:

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Northeastern Region	Rodney Woolard	rodney.woolard@ncagr.gov
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ADFPTF Preservation Conservation Easement Stats 11-17-2020:

- Recorded easement acres 24,631
 - Since creation in 2005
 - 20,501
 - Prior to 2005
 - 4,130
- Acres under contract for a conservation easement
 - 20.129
- Acres under option for a conservation easement
 - 38,129

General Appropriations:

North Carolina Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC) and North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Funding (2 Year Funding) July – September Report:

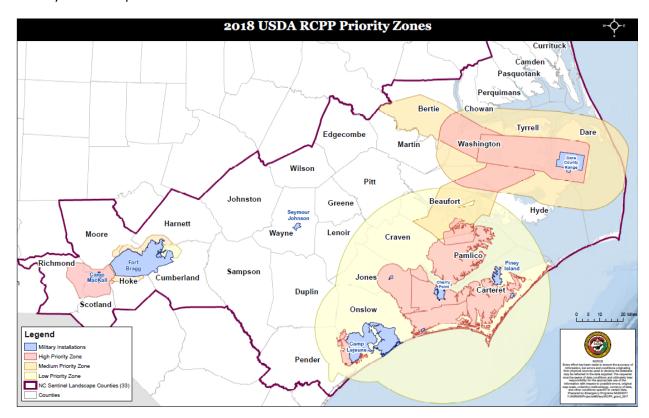
Project:	Year to date Expenses	Balance
NC Department of Agriculture		
(NCDA) Outreach	\$42,859.33	\$107,140.07
NC State University		
(NCSU) Project	\$48,749.17	\$31,250.83
NC Foundation for Soil and		
Water Conservation (NCFSWC)	\$29,361.41	\$40,638.59
TOTAL:	\$120,969.91	\$179,030.09

NCMAC/NCDA MOU	Appropriated Funding
MOU dated 8/31/2018	\$150,000
MOU dated 11/13/2019	\$150,000
Total:	\$300,000
Less Expenses	\$-120,969.91
Balance 11/1/2020	\$179,030.09

North Carolina Commanders' Council 17 November 2020 "North Carolina Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Projects"



Military Partnership Conservation Focus Area:



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Partnership Related Funding Overview as of 11-11-2020

Acronyms:

Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF)

General Assembly (GA)

Regional Conservational Partnership Program (RCPP)

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

United States Air Force (USAF)

Working Land Trust (WLT)

Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG)

	Resource Amount	<u>Ex</u>	<u>penditures</u>	Contracted	<u>Balance</u>
<u>ADFPTF</u>					
2014-15 GA	\$1,000,000				
2015-16 GA	\$1,000,000				
2016-17 GA	\$1,000,000				
2017-18 GA	\$1,000,000				
2018-19 GA	\$1,000,000				
2018-19 GA one-time					
\$13 million (2018 RCPP)	\$8,128,955				
2019-20 GA	\$1,000,000				
2020-210 GA	\$1,000,000				
SL 2020-44		\$1	,217,088		
ADFPTF Grant Cycle XI					
ALE Projects				\$1,555,897	
ADFPTF Grant Cycle XII					
ALE Projects				\$3,113,552	
-McDonald Farm Easement		\$	84,500		
-R&M Properties of Hyde County		\$	409,684		
-John W & Ingrid P. McAden		\$	388,035		
-2019 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts				\$ 860,479	
-2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts				\$ 110,637	
-2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$	892,431		
-2018 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts with WL	.T			\$133,473	
-2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts				\$3,324,956	
-2019 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts				\$2,293,116	
-Shephard Land Parcel Appraisal		\$	7,410		
-FY 2020 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts				\$1,737,698	
-FY 2020 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts					
TOTAL:	\$16,128,955	\$2	,999,147	\$13,129,807	\$0

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Military Partnership Funding as of 11-1-2020

Acronyms:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land Easements (USDA NRCS ALE)

	Resource <u>Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
USAF-NCDA&CS Cooperative	·			
Agreement				
FY-15	\$1,263,000			
FY-16	\$1,766,270			
FY-17	\$3,400,000			
FY-18	\$1,500,000			
FY-19	\$ 500,000			
FY-20	\$ 750,000			
R&M Properties of Hyde County		\$409,684		
John W. & Ingrid P. McAden		\$388,035		
2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$2,053,646		
2019 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$1,174,116	
2020 USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$1,737,698	
2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPF Contracts			\$3,324,956	
TOTALS:	\$9,179,270	\$2,851,364	\$6,236,770	\$91,136
NAVY-NCDA&CS Encroachment Protec	tion Agreement			
FY-18 NAVY-NCDA&CS	\$1,138,101			
2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			\$110,637	
FY-19 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts			\$860,479	
FY-2020 NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts				
2020 Amendment 1 for Contract				
NC0085-18 RP-00202	\$2,770,000		\$1,576,492	
TOTALS:	\$3,908,101		\$2,547,608	\$1,360,493
Military Partnership Funding Total:	\$13,087,371		\$2,851,364	\$1,451,629

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservational Partnership Program (USDA NRCS RCPP) Partnership Funding Overview as of 11-1-2020 <u>Acronym:</u>

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land Easements (USDA NRCS ALE)

`	•	Resource <u>Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	Contracted	<u>Balance</u>
USDA NRCS ALE					
2016 RCPP		\$1,162,570			
2018 RCPP		\$5,620,000			

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	Resource	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	Amount			
2016 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts		\$1,161,251		
2018 RCPP/NAVY/ADFPTF Contracts		71,101,231	\$164,751	
•				
2018 RCPP/USAF/ADFPTF Contracts			\$5,388,949	
2019 RCPP (Preserving Upriver Farms)	\$8,506494			
TOTALS:	\$15,289,064	\$1,161,215	\$5,553,700	\$8,574,149
Partnership Related Funding Overview	as of 11-1-2020			
	Resource	Expenditures	<u>Contracted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	<u>Amount</u>			
Military	\$13,087,371	\$2,851,364	\$8,784,378	\$1,451,629
NC ADFPTF Military Funds	\$8,000,000	\$2,999,147	\$13,129,807	-\$8,128.955
Funding From \$13 million	\$8,128,955			\$0
USDA NRCS ALE	\$6,782,570	\$1,161,215	\$5,553,700	\$0
Military Partnership Funding	\$35,998,896	\$5,850,512	\$21,914,185	-\$6,677,326
*The negative \$6,677,326 is due to ADI	FPTF fronting mi	litary contract fu	inding for: \$8,78	34,378

Partnership Grant Applications:

- 2020 NC Department of Justice Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG) Program
 - o Two easements in MCI-EAST priority region (Waller Brothers and Spring Creek Farms)
 - One easement is SJAFB priority region (Kilkenny Farm)
 - o Matching funds for 2019 RCPP Award for Cape Fear River Basin
- 2020 Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI)
 Challenge
 - \$11 million proposal (\$10 million for easement acquisition)
 - 17,418 acres of farm and forestland in SJAFB and MCI-EAST priority regions
 - Living Shoreline
- Only received award of \$1 million for living shoreline-MCI-EAST

New Military Perpetual Easement Contracts: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022							
Project Name	Grantee	Gr	ant Amount	Acres	County	Branch	
Linden Carolina Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$ 2	1,018,489	737.24	Washington	USAF	
Columbia NC Farms	Working Lands Trust	\$	719,209	679.17	Washington	USAF	
Spring Creek Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$	353,050	552	Pamlico	Navy	
Spring Creek Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$	382,125	599	Pamlico	Navy	
Spring Creek Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$	20,594	14.58	Pamlico	Navy	
Spring Creek Farm	Working Lands Trust	\$	820,723	1308	Pamlico	Navy	

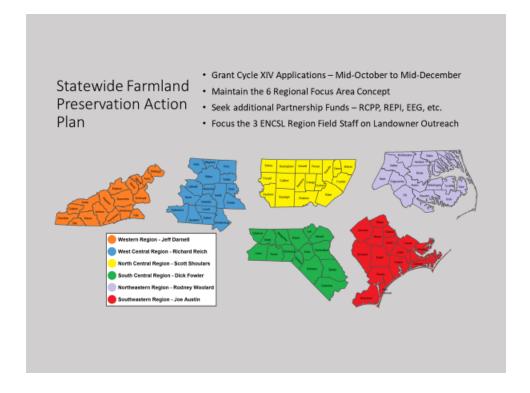
2020-2021 Partnership Grant Applications Planned:

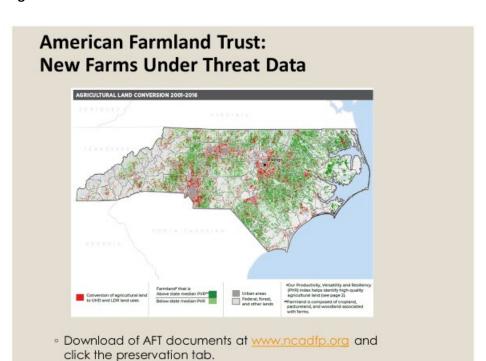
- 2021 DoD REPI Challenge
 - o Conservation Easements (Resilience Based)
 - US Air Force (USAF)
 - MCI-EAST NAVY
 - US Army (not likely No Encroachment Protection Agreement with NCDA&CS)
 - ✓ Recommend an Encroachment Protection Agreement to participate in the 2019 RCPP (Preserving Upriver Farms) for \$8.5 million to match Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Funding.

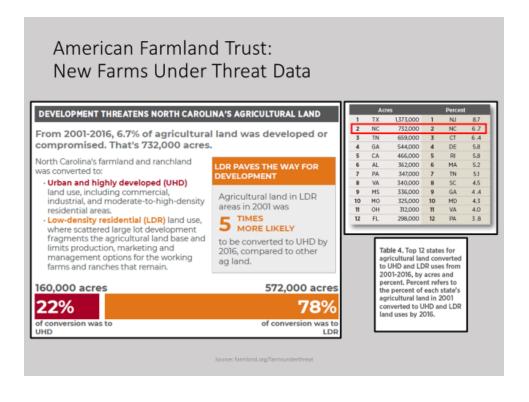
- 2021 USDA NRCS RCPP
 - o Preserving Upriver Farms to Reduce Flooding in NC Phase II Upper Neuse River Basin

ADFPTF Conservation Easements Projects With Associated Military Funding 11-1-2020

- Recorded Conservation Easements:
 - o 5 Easements
 - o 2,037 acres
 - \$5,850,512 (All Partner \$)
 - USAF Funding
 - o \$5,850,512
- Active Contract Easement Projects
 - o 25 Contract Projects
 - o 13,293 acres
 - \$21,914,185 (ADFPTF, ALE & Military \$)
 - USAF 12 Projects
 - MCI-EAST NAVY 13 Projects







NC4ME: Kimberly Williams

Mission: Make NC the #1 State for Military Employment

Past to Present:

- 2013 An Idea
- 2014 Partnerships
- 2015 Build Foundation
- 2016 2017 Implementation
- 2018 Vision
- 2019 High Demand
- 2020 The 3 E's

NC4ME- Making a Difference

- Change the employment culture in North Carolina
 - o A value propositions
 - High performing talent
- Consider military personnel as a workforce
 - o 80% of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) have a civilian counterpart
 - o 20,000 exiting NC Bases every year
 - Nearly 800,000 Vets in North Carolina
 - o 11,200 NC Guard & 10,031 total Reservists in NC (as of 30 Sep 2020)

NC4ME's Team:

- Secretary Larry Hall, Secretary NC DMVA
- LtGen Gary McKissock, USMC (Ret)
- MG Rodney Anderson, USA (Ret)
- BG M. Todd Hunt, NCNG Adj General
- BG JR Gorham, USA (Ret)
- Mark Edmonds
- David Long, Long Beverage
- James Banner, Vice President Pike Corporation
- Binu Thomas, Vice President MetLife
- Ed Paradise, Vice President CISCO
- Ron Bogle, National Chairman for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve
- Paul Friday, Executive Director for Defense Alliance of North Carolina
- Stuart Ruffin

NC4ME Results:

- Leaders Hear Business Case for Vet Hiring: 4,300
- HR Professional Trained to Hire Military: 1,100
- Interviews Documented: 3,700
- 50% receive job offers of second interviews

Upcoming Schedule:

- Durham area Hiring Event, Virtual January 20, 2021
- Jacksonville Area Hiring Event, Virtual February 17, 2021
- NC4ME/VBH Employer Summit March 2021
- NC4ME/VBH Hiring Event March/April 2021
- Goldsboro Area Hiring Event May 12, 2021
- Fayetteville/Fort Bragg area Hiring Event June 16, 2021

Discussion: Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions or comments from the Commission members? Rodney Anderson said Go Veterans, all the way. Kimberly Williams said that Rodney Anderson was on the NC4ME Steering Committee and helping with a new vision moving forward. Sally-Ann Gupta said that she first saw Kimberly Williams speak at her first NC Military Affairs Commission meeting in 2015 at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. She thought that she was the most dynamic energetic speaker. She has incredible subject matter command of the information. Sally-Ann Gupta aspires to become a public speaker like Kimberly Williams. She has referred Legislators to her for information on military employment and she wants to compliment her and appreciates her updates and speaking. Kimberly Williams said that she appreciated the kind words. She said that the program would not be successful without the support of the State and the NC Military Affairs Commission. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Governor's office and Department of Commerce have really stepped up to make this work. It has been an easy partnership.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: FRANK BOTTORFF

Grant Review Committee (GRC):

The Grant Review Committee (GRC) met on Monday October 19, 2020 at 1:30 – 3:30. The committee was made up of the following Commission members. Frank Bottorff (Cherry Point); David Myers (Camp Lejeune); Rodney Anderson (Fort Bragg) and Chuck Allen (Seymour Johnson). The committee reviewed three applications that were submitted. The applications that were submitted were from the City of Fayetteville, Fayetteville State University and Homefront Room Revival (Seymour Johnson Air Force Base), The committee members reviewed the checklist provided by Frank Bottorff and approved the checklist.

Rodney Anderson informed the committee that he was the sponsor for two of the application and wanted the other committee members to be aware of that fact. David Myers said that he was not concerned about that since this committee was only making a recommendation to the NC Military Affairs Commission for the final approval. Frank Bottorff said that he agreed with David Myers. There was no direct or indirect benefit to Rodney Anderson with either of these applications.

Frank Bottorff gave the purpose of the Community Grant Program. To fund grants to local communities and military installations for projects designed to strengthen the State's posture when the Department of Defense (DoD) reviews. Projects can be leveraged to promote, preserve, or enhance military missions and installations in North Carolina. The NC Military Affairs Commission strives to support locally-driven initiative that support the NC Military Affairs Commission's goals and build on regional and State assets to spur a thriving and prosperous military presence within North Carolina.

City of Fayetteville: Self-serve digital information kiosks:

As the sixth largest city in the state of NC, and nearby to Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the US, the City of Fayetteville aspires to become a "Smart City" that leverages information technologies to improve operational and communication efficiencies. With the support of NC Military Affairs Commission, The City of Fayetteville (CoF) will partner with four other funding partners (Cool Spring Downtown District, The Arts Council, the Fayetteville/Cumberland Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Public Works Commission (PWC), each of which is contributing \$5,000 to the project, as well as with Fort Bragg's Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) directorate, to purchase and install two self-service digital information kiosks. The kiosks, approximately seven feet tall with dual-sided 55" LED interactive displays, will promote the afore-mentioned partner organizations with such information as upcoming events and activities in Fayetteville and on Fort Bragg, city programs and services, area attractions, parks and recreation areas, shopping and dining options, and community news. The Kiosks will be placed at two locations; one will go in the vicinity of the "Arts Council", and the second will be placed at either the Fayetteville Regional Airport (Couse of Action (COA2)) or at the Ft. Bragg Post Exchange (COA1). The project cost is \$91,000 total and includes the \$25,000 match mentioned above. The grant request to the NCMAC is for \$66,880.

The Grant Committee felt that this grant met the intent and purpose of the grant guidance and support the approval of the grant request (with conditions).

The committee felt that placing one Kiosk aboard Ft. Bragg was instrumental of showing direct support for the Military communities. The City of Fayetteville is continuing to work with Ft. Bragg leadership to work on the legal authority to place a Kiosk on the installation. If a Kiosk was not permitted to be placed on the installation, the grant request should be reevaluated.

Comments:

- score (86)
- Recommend Course of Action 1
- Recommend feedback on data collection after six months and one year

<u>Fayetteville State University:</u>

Fayetteville State University faculty propose to survey transitioning solders leaving active duty military service at Fort Bragg to (a) determine where they plan to reside after exiting the service; (b) identify the factors influencing their location decisions; (c) get soldier perspectives on the extent to which changes in North Carolina attributes may be likely to change post-service location decisions.

The project cost is \$19,444 total including a \$5,300 Match (in-kind). The grant request to the NC Military Affairs Commission is for **\$14,144**.

The Grant Committee felt that this grant met the intent and purpose of the grant guidance and support the approval of the grant request.

The grant committee felt that this project is supportive of several of the NC Military Affairs Commission's goals and initiatives. Additionally, the committee agreed that expanding this project to

include the other major installations/Services would be beneficial. FSU was contacted regarding the expansion of the project and they are reviewing the feasibility of the expansion and any potential cost increases. FSU's initial reaction was positive.

Comments:

- score (82)
- Recommend feedback after six months and one year.
- Add a specific question about the impact that a tax free military retirement would have on their post military location decision.
- Could other services be part of the survey?

Homefront Room Revival:

Homefront Room Revival's innovative approach has cycled hundreds of military families and active duty members back into military resources and traditional services who have fallen through the cracks in the existing system or lacked connection to military resources at all. Founded in May 2016 by Air Force Veteran Katelyn Tinsley, Homefront Room Revival is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization with a mission to provide military families with creative outlets to improve resiliency and enrich the military life cycle. On July 1, 2019 Homefront Room Revival moved on base at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB) to pilot a program to achieve a proof of concept and has been operating on base for the past year in partnership with the 4th Fighter Wing at SJAFB.

The purpose of the grant is to fund an expansion of the program activity *Creative Arts / Life Skills Social Workshop Series* across different military demographics at SJAFB ... to drive Airman and Families together in a safe place that acts like a soft entry point into military and community resources.

The project cost is \$61,836 total including a \$13,860 Match (in-kind space from SJAFB). The grant request to the NC Military Affairs Commission is for \$47,976.

The Grant Committee felt that this grant met the intent and purpose of the grant guidance and support the approval of the grant request.

The grant committee did have some concerns that this request was intended to fund ongoing operational requirements. The focus of this project, and the extent of the direct support to the military family quality of life, is what pushed this grant into the "approve" category. This project is having a positive impact at SJAFB.

Comments:

- See the Spreadsheet for score (81)
- Check Secretary of States website to see if the 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization is in good standing.

Funding for Community Grant Program:

Budget: \$225,000 (Up to this amount)

City of Fayetteville \$ 66,880
Fayetteville State University \$ 14,144
Homefront Room Revival \$ 47,976
Total Requests \$ 129.000

Frank Bottorff said that he was going to just talk about the three grant applications. The first grant application was from the City of Fayetteville, which was for self-service digital information kiosks, approximately seven feet tall with dual-sided 55" LED interactive displays. That grant request was for \$66,880. The second grant application was from Fayetteville State University to conduct a survey of transitioning soldiers for \$14,144. The third grant applications are from Homefront Room Revival to provide military families with creative outlets to improve resiliency and enrich the military life cycle by a non-profit organization aboard SJAFB. That grant request was for \$47,976.

Frank Bottorff said that he would go through a synopsis of each grant request and ask for some comments from the Grant Review Committee (GRC). You all received this information prior to this meeting. After he talks about each grant application, he will let any of the GRC members to make any comments and then ask if there are any questions from the other Commission members. We have people from each of the grant application requestors to answer any questions that the GRC cannot answer or want more information.

Frank Bottorff started with the City of Fayetteville's grant application. This project was for two large digital kiosks. The purpose is to promote local organizations information and events. The Kiosks will be placed at two locations; one will go in the vicinity of the "Arts Council", and the second will be placed at either the Fayetteville Regional Airport (COA2) or at the Ft. Bragg Post Exchange (COA1). There could be some data collection done for the impact to the military user. Cannot Clearly, the kiosk placed downtown could be used by anyone, so showing a direct correlation to the military is harder to prove. If there is one on Fort Bragg that would show a correlation to the military. The total cost for the project was \$91,880 with a \$25,000 match from the City of Fayetteville and their four partners (Cool Spring Downtown District, The Arts Council, the Fayetteville/Cumberland Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Public Works Commission (PWC)). The GRC recommended this project but with a caveat. The GRC felt that to really meet the requirement to help the military, and the military community, it would be best to have one of the kiosks on the installation. He does not know if we have a final answer about that yet. Frank Bottorff asked Kevin Arata if he had received an answer from Fort Bragg Legal office yet? Kevin Arata said that he had spoken with Ray Lacy, Fort Bragg MWR Director. At this time, their answer is no but they continue to work on this matter. We have been working on this since early July. They have tried through the Post Exchange and they have tried the Soldier Support Center which is under the Garrison but a different arm. They have also been working with Womack Medical Center in the pharmacy area. They continue to work this matter. Frank Bottorff said that the project was \$91,880 with \$25,000 coming from the City of Fayetteville and their partners, which left the grant request for \$66,880. He asked if any of the GRC members had anything to add for their discussion or questions from other Commission members? There were no questions. Frank Bottorff said that for this project

they had the one caveat and that was if they could put one on the installation. If that cannot happen, then one will be at the Art Council and the other at the Fayetteville Regional Airport. The GRC did think that this project should not be funded but it was enhanced if there was one of the kiosks on the installation. It is up to the Commission if they want to approve this request or wait to see if one of the kiosks can be put on the installation. He asked for any thoughts or feedback? David Hayden asked if the pushback was from the installation legal officer? Kevin Arata said no but from a couple different places. The first was from the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and how does this work when it is on the installation and connected to their network system. The other part was how does the WIFI and electricity get paid? On the City side, they will just pay for that. Those are the two roadblocks at this time. When he talks to Ray Lacey, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, he is very interested in doing this project, and had tried to do something like this a few years ago but it got stopped. They are excited about the potential of this but making it work is the hard part. David Hayden said he appreciated the information and was trying to think of some other locations or a Welcome Center that you have people coming in. If you have Public Works Commission involved, then you have money for power. Kevin Arata said that the Welcome Center is gone but the Soldier Support Center is where a lot of people go and the soldiers in and out process there. Rodney Anderson said that he was a sponsor on this project. When he first heard about this project he thought how important it was for the new families and all of the families. When they are shopping they can get through a touch screen, information on activities. This could be a great benefit for them. If we have to get engaged and go way up the flagpole, he thinks we need to figure out how to get one of these kiosks on Fort Bragg. He is in support of approval as long as we get one on Fort Bragg. He will engage if necessary on that. Frank Bottorff asked if there was a motion to support this grant request from the City of Fayetteville for \$66,880? David Hayden made a motion to support the grant application from the City of Fayetteville for \$66,880 and seconded by Frank Bottorff. Chairman Martin asked if there was any discussion? Kirk Warner asked if it was contingent on placement of one kiosks on post? David Hayden made a motion to support this grant request from the City of Fayetteville for \$66,880 subject to at least one of the kiosks being placed on the installation and seconded by Frank Bottorff. Chairman Martin asked if there was any other discussion? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Frank Bottorff said that the second grant request was from Fayetteville State University (FSU). The purpose was to survey transitioning solders to determine opportunities to attract and increase veteran presence in NC. The survey would determine where they plan to reside after they exit the military, identify the factors influencing their location decisions and get soldier perspectives on the extent to which changes in North Carolina attributes may be likely to change post-service location decisions. The total project itself is \$19,444 and there is some in kind from FSU which would support computers and other things like that. The grant request is for \$14,144. The GRC did recommend approval for this grant but also recommended that he go back to FSU and ask them to push this out to the other services and major installations in NC. After some discussion with FSU, they said that they could expand the survey. The original grant request was for \$14,144, they sent back a brief with an updated grant request. This request for additional work was done by the GRC. In the new brief and determining what the new

Scope of Work (SOW) would be, the grant request is \$23, 400 - \$31,200 depending on the SOW. Frank Bottorff said that he is not sure what the different prices mean but maybe is dependent on how many service members they survey. Greg McElveen, FSU described the SOW for the project. He said they are happy to have an opportunity to collaborate with the NC Military Affairs Commission. The expanded

SOW range was a function of the extent to which they could get Points of Contact and collaboration at the various installations. If we can identify individuals that could incorporate our survey as part of their transition process which would minimize the need for us to call and try to get responses. If this survey is part of their process the cost will be at the low end of the funding and the questions would be the same across all of the Services. If the Commission wants specific questions for each Service or Installation and more work required then that would be at the higher end of the proposal. Frank Bottorff said that other things that the GRC discussed were the questions themselves. One of the requests was that one question would be about the impact for tax free retirement pay for those that are retiring and exiting the military on their decision process. We thought that this fit nicely with our other discussion on whether this would support then agenda of getting tax fee for military retirement. That was one of the things that was suggested. He also said that the GRC did not think that they needed specific questions for each Service but that is something to consider. Overall, there was a positive reaction from the GRC. He asked if any of the GRC members had any comments? Rodney Anderson said that he wanted to highlight that he had made a phone call to the Deputy Garrison Commander, Justin Mitchell, and asked him at the beginning of this process, if he had any ideas or initiatives that would fit with the Commission's Roles. He connected him with the Transition Office, Bill McMillion, so this came from an idea from the Garrison Commander and would be beneficial for them as well to know about what the views are for transitioning veterans. They did a study about five years ago and that information is dated. This survey will also give them new information but more importantly it will allow us not to guess what transitioning veterans are thinking but have valid information. Frank Bottorff said that with the information that we have today, he does think that this fits into what the NC Military Affairs Commission has been discussing and working on. If there is support on this grant application, he recommends that we approve this grant not to exceed \$31,200. Also, depending on any changes that are made it, the cost could be lower. Kirk Warner asked to clarify from the FSU staff, that the new proposal will not affect the matching amount from FSU. Greg McElveen said that if the cost proposal goes up then FSU would be increasing their match because they would be using a more sophisticated software tool that they would pay for themselves. Walter Gaskin said that if we increase the other units does that increase the things that Kimberly Williams briefed on as far as the scope of education. We also talked about the tax retirement, does that scope also increase the proposal more than the \$31,200 that we are about to vote about. Greg McElveen said no it would not increase more than the \$31,200 with those questions included. Walter Gaskins also asked if the locations decisions will be part of the set of questions? The analysis of the economic impact is a different question, but we need to ask the transiting soldiers about the extent to which they consider that important as part of this package. Frank Bottorff said that with the comments from Walter Gaskin, the NC4ME is directly related to both the information that we will get and into the tax free retirement pay initiative because that is part of keeping people in this State, is that when they stay they not only get other employment, but they get the appropriate employment. So,

when we have a group like NC4ME, that bring the appropriate jobs to the service members, goes very well together, and validates everything. David Hayden asked Greg McElveen what the timeframe to complete the survey if approved. Greg McElveen said that was flexible, but we had initially planned to maximize the number of responses by getting the survey information over a nine month period as soldiers are rotating through the classes, giving interim reports so you can get a sense for what the answers are coming back with, and maybe a quarterly interval. If we need the information sooner, than maybe we can do that with fewer responses. David Hayden said that when the information is needed, it might drive an earlier report but the benefit of this is the work input that you get for your survey and the accuracy of the information. Kirk Warner said that the interim report could be very informative. Kirk Warner made a motion to approve the grant application from Fayetteville State University up to the amount of \$31,200 and seconded by Walter Gaskin. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Frank Bottorff said that the third grant request was from Homefront Room Revival. The project is for creative arts, life skills, social workshops series for Airmen and families. The purpose of the grant is to fund an expansion of the program activity. The focus is to drive Airmen and families together in a safe place that acts like a soft point into the military community and resources. This grant total is \$61,836 and the match is an in kind match for SJAFB and valued at \$13,860. SJAFB provides space aboard the Installation for this organization which is a non-profit to conduct these life skill events. The grant request is for \$47,976. The GRC did have some discussion on this application and had a concern about the funding going for normal operating costs. It is an expansion on what they are already doing. The thing that carried the day was that it was clear that they are directly supporting the Airmen, military families, and quality of life. They are helping families get into being part of the military and a part of the SJAFB community. The GRC thought it had a very positive impact on that community on and off base into the community. They thought this was a good program and should be supported. ET Mitchell asked if this was duplicating any military program that is already funded through the Services. She has a concern about this program. Frank Bottorff said that she had a valid questions. The GRC thought that since the Base was giving them space for this program that it is in addition to and enhances some of the other military programs that already exist. Also, that the Base has given them a permanent space shows that the Commander values this program. ET Mitchell said that she agrees with that but wants to ensure that the funding would not be used to duplicate an existing program. Frank Bottorff said that he could not answer her question. ET Mitchell also asked what the funds would be used to cover? Katelyn Tinsley, Homefront Room Revival said that her non-profit organization does not duplicate services that are available currently. Her programs are an innovative resiliency tool providing a self-entry point into the programs that exist on Base. This funding would be used to cover Veteran and Military Spouse Fall Business Center Entrepreneurship workshops. This would facilitate a greater sense of mentorship towards attendees and also to enhance and empower leadership. ET Mitchell asked what kinds of entrepreneurs and programs are you talking about? Katelyn Tinsley said that the whole program is based on creative coping through outreach and the arts. This would also be bringing in a sense of

pottery into the program. We would have small businesses or hobbyists that would do that. This would reach out to all different Airmen (married and single) and families. We want to include all of the demographics of the Air Force into these classes and a safe environment for everyone. Colonel Mullinax, Deputy Commander SJAFB said that what they did initially with the program was to run it through their unsolicited proposal process with the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) with their Contracting office. It went through the Level 4 detail process for a program. To pass the FAR legally and to be able to put any funding towards this type of requirement has to be something above and beyond what we would normally do in the Garrison. He understands what we are asking. The Airmen and Family Readiness has a different name than what is at Fort Bragg. As they ran it through all of those processes, it came back as unique and above and beyond what they would normally do or could do with the requirements and services they have right now. ET Mitchell asked if this was helping troubled families and spouses or adjustment issues? She is trying to figure out who the target audience is? Colonel Mullinax said that the target audience is all of the above. When he initially got to SJAFB, he asked all of the same questions and took a hard look at the program. What we wanted to create here was a nexus of human connection that looks and smells different from what we are normally use to in the military, where everyone has a name tag, had a uniform, and had to make an appointment. As he looked into the program, he says that Ms. Tinsley has really matured the program over the past four years. She has also done some things for the Marines around Cherry Point and received some notoriety.

What really moved him was seeing the impact on one of his spouses that did a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) from another base. It was a new family that came from the West Coast and then her husband was deployed immediately. He was gone for over six months and she was trying to adjust to this change, the program was an outreach to her. It addresses the airmen and families that are E-5 and below. This is not for officers or senior enlisted. That spouse hit that genre and when he listened to her speak, this was an emotional event for her and how this program impacted her. Then how she felt in our community. When she said that this place really feels like home now, that had an impact on him. Her husband was still gone at this time. The current Wing Commander, Colonel Kurt Helphinstine is aware that you are voting on this grant also. Col Mullinax said that this program is already working, and this grant will help to make it grow and expand. He can see this program growing to Camp Lejeune and other Installations in NC plus Department of Defense wide. It does have some Four-start interest as well from General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, Commander Air Mobility Command. She has been interested in this program since the inception of the program. This program continues to gain traction and this funding will go to benefit our Airmen and families in ways that they have not been able to do. ET Mitchell said that she appreciated the information from Col Mullinax, and he had answered all of her questions. David Hayden said that he had a question and then an observation. He just went to the Secretary of States website to check on this non-profit and then to review all of the publicity that this organization has had. His question is Katelyn Tinsley, where is their current funding coming from? Katelyn Tinsley said that his has been a shoestring budget from small donors and grass roots grants. Also, from social media crowd funding. They are 100% volunteers at this time and the only person that is paid is their accountant. This funding would help them take the program to the next level. David Hayden said that what they are doing for Veterans and their families is wonderful. Taking disposable

items and repurposing those items and providing those items to military families is amazing. He was at Fort Bragg for many years and does not know of an organization like this. He is very impressed with the testimonials from the recipients of her good will. Helping these families to make their homes look like homes is very special. He recommended that any member who had any concerns to go to the website and check out the stories that are on-line. He agrees that this program could be replicated at other installations. Kirk Warner said that he assumed that maybe this should dovetail with the USO's resiliency programs that they have. He knows they are more for the family. He knows that this currently is different. He also said that one of the reasons that the NC Military Affairs Commission exists is Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) resistance. Seymour Johnson is always at the top of our list to preserve in the State. But more important is the focus for the BRAC committee has always been what has the community done and supported. The fact that the community is engaged in this type of resiliency program and rounds out what we are here for. He is in favor of this program and does not think it is duplicating any USO programs. Col Mullinax said that this program does not duplicate any USO programs. They also have a human mouse trap at Seymour Johnson AFB, the USO opened a gaming center that their installation for younger airmen. As soon as they opened it up then COVID hit and now it does the opposite of what they wanted it to do. The USO as a whole at their Base has been geared to their younger airmen in the dorms and giving them a space and place to go to connect. The program that Ms. Tinsley operates is geared and centered to the nuclear family that we as a Force have not been able to reach from a corporate standpoint. What her organization does, does not look, or smell corporate and a soft entry point. Walter Gaskin said that he wanted to add one more thing. He has a special understanding of families with children with special needs and the extra that is required that the community provides and helps those families. One of the things that is not often understood about the children is that when a parent needs to get a babysitter, they cannot just get the average babysitter. They have to get someone who understand the special needs child. He also thanked Ms. Tinsley for what she was doing but he thought that she had under asked for her grant request to expand the scope of her application. Rodney Anderson said that he did not really understand this program initially and then a small voice on his shoulder said that spouses and families serve without pay. If there is one group that he always defers to beyond veterans are the spouses and families. If we can do one small thing to help them, we should do it and he is in favor of this request. Patricia Harris said that she had an exceptional family member, and she thinks this is a wonderful program. She is sold on the program. ET Mitchell said that this is not just a BRAC issue but retention issue. ET Mitchell made a motion to support the grant request from Homefront Room Revival for \$47,976 and seconded by David Hayden. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Frank Bottorff said that the Commission needed to discuss and approve the two recurring programs. Those programs are Sentinel Landscape for \$150,000 and renew the MOU and NC4ME for \$40,000 and completed the Sole Source paperwork or a MOU. Since we have approved the three grant requests we need to take care of this first. To approve \$146,056 (\$66,880, \$31,200, 47,976) from the grant line for the approved grants. He asked if someone would make a motion to approve \$146,000 from the budget.

to the grant line. ET Mitchell made a motion to approve \$146, 056 from the budget to the grant line and seconded by Walter Gaskin.. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed. Frank Bottorff said that we had two great presentation today from Sentinel Landscapes and NC4ME. He asked if there was any discussion on Sentinel Landscapes. Chairman Martin asked for a motion on Sentinel Landscapes. Kirk Warner made a motion to approve \$150,000 for the renewal of the MOU for Sentinel Landscapes and seconded by David Hayden. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed. Kelly Jackson said that the MOU for Sentinel Landscape is on a yearly basis so a new MOU would have to be signed but it would be identical to that last MOU and a legal review from the Department of Agriculture. Frank Bottorff said that the last budget item is for NC4ME for \$40,000 and a Sole Source document. ET Mitchell made a motion to approve \$40,000 for NC4ME and completed the sole source paperwork and seconded by Walter Gaskin. Chairman Martin asked if there was any further discussion about this application? The Commission members were all in favor of the motion and no one opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Martin wanted to thank the GRC committee for all of their hard work. The members were Frank Bottorff, Rodney Anderson, David Myers, and Chuck Allen.

STRATEGIC PLAN: FRANK BOTTORFF

Frank Bottorff said that the NC Military Affairs Commission has finished their strategic plan. It has been delivered to the General Assembly on time and on target. If any members want some copies of the plan they can get some from Kelly Jackson at Department of Military Affairs (DMVA). He said that it was a well done document and thanked everyone for their help. David Hayden said that we could give some of them out at the NGAUS conference next year. Kirk Warner said that he would like some of that information put on a slide deck to be used for presentations in the future. He would like a power point presentation that they can use at briefings about the NCMAC. Frank Bottorff said that he would work on that project with the help of others. ET Mitchell said that when that is completed, can it be put on the NC Military Affairs Commission website. Frank said that could be done. Frank Bottorff asked Kelly Jackson to send out a PDF version of the Strategic Plan to the NC Military Affairs Commission members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Martin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. ET Michell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Walter Gaskin. Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm.