

**MINUTES FROM 12/16/14 FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NC MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
**FORT BRAGG CLUB, FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

BGen Bud Martin, USMC RET  
BGen Paul Dordal, USAF RET  
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC RET  
Col. Robert Anderson, USA RET  
Col. Walter Marm, Jr., USA RET  
SgtMaj William Hatcher, USMC RET  
CDR Bill Lehmann, USCG RET  
George Breece  
Jeremiah Daniels  
Rep. Efton Sager  
Asst. Secy Ilario Pantano, Div. of Veterans Affairs  
Hon. George Cleveland  
Sen. Harry Brown (via WebEx)  
John Matthews  
Joy Thrash  
MG Bob Dickerson, USMC RET (via WebEx)  
MG Gregory Lusk, NCARNG  
Cindi Basenspiler (via WebEx)

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES:**

Jason Lowry (military liaison for Congressman Walter Jones)  
Darryl Black (aide to Sen. Harry Brown)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

MGen Cornell Wilson, USMC RET  
Maj. Bobby Lumsden, NCNG  
Mark Finlayson, ACT  
Ron Massey  
Lt.Col. Sarah Dicks, NCNG  
Gen. J.R. Gorham  
LTC James Crabtree  
Sheila Pierce, JOED  
Dan Oliver, JOED  
Alex Gray  
Paul Friday  
Sal Nodjomian  
Terry Yonkers  
John Simmons  
Jake Johannsen

**NON-VOTING/EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lt. Governor Dan Forest  
Hon. Will Lewis  
Bill Crews, Department of Public Safety  
Dr. George Millsaps, NC Community Colleges  
Graham Wilson, Department of Commerce  
Janet Bradbury (military liaison for Sen. Burr)  
Doug Taggart, Department of Public Instruction  
Darryl Morrison, Department of Revenue  
Ryan Gossage, DENR  
Robert Hosford, Department of Agriculture  
Sebastian Montagne, Dept of Transportation  
Sen. Ron Rabin, NCGA  
Sen. Wesley Meredith, NCGA  
Jason Simmons, DHHS (via WebEx)  
Kimrey Rhinehardt, UNC Bd of Govrs (by WebEx)

Sandra Eller, EA, City of Fayetteville  
Tom Bowlin, NCNG  
CDR Bruce Brown, USCG Elizabeth City  
Col. Todd Hunt, NCNG  
Scott Dorney, NCMBC  
Greg Lewis, ACT  
Stewart Cox, Civilian Deputy Commander, 4FW  
Stuart Ruffin, NC Military Foundation  
Col. Blayne Spraitlin, CO FRC East  
Greg Taylor, Fort Bragg Regional Alliance  
Kimberly Lindsay, Governor's Working Group  
Lisa Boyette, Craven County Schools  
Johanna Royo, Elite Magazine  
Matthew Gunnnett, NCACC  
Timothy Downs, Craven Co. Econ Development

Ray Celeste  
James Norment, ACT  
Rochelle D. Small-Toney, Deputy City Mgr, Fayetteville  
Tina Paulson, G-5 Community Plans Liaison Office (school liaison)  
Dewitt Hardee, Dept of Agriculture  
Cathy Hurley, Military Family & Youth Liaison, Cumberland Co Schools

At 12:35 PM Chairman Martin requested a motion to go into closed session for a BRAC study update by the Matrix Team pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a)(1), which was so moved by Vice Chair Dordal. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed without additional discussion.

Maj. Lumsden introduced Garrison Commander Col. Jeffrey Sanborn of Fort Bragg, who noted the return of the XVIII Airborne Corps welcoming them and remaining attendees of the meeting. Col. Sanborn thanked Tommy Bolton for sponsoring lunch for the Commissioners.

At 1: 10 PM Chairman Mabry Martin convened the meeting of the full Commission and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed all and gave opening remarks, thanking Tommy Bolton for providing lunch. A quorum was present. Chairman Martin reviewed the meeting agenda.

MajGen Cornell Wilson presented administrative updates and discussed the proposed budget for the NC MAC, and prospective dates for upcoming meetings. (See NC MAC website for proposed budget, upcoming meeting dates.) Gen. Wilson turned the floor over to the Chair.

Chairman Martin reviewed the consent agenda. He requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last full Commission meeting with a request to note in the minutes Ms. Joy Thrash's attendance at that meeting. So moved by George Brece, which was seconded and passed unanimously with no further discussion.

By-laws: Chairman Martin requested a motion to maintain the present make-up of the Commission for the next year with no legislative changes, which was so moved by George Brece and subsequently seconded. Chairman Martin asked for discussion. Col. Dottorff gave his opinion that mayors of military communities should be granted membership to the Commission and voting privileges. Chairman Martin pointed out that mayors are *ex-officio* members of the Commission and also of the standing Committees and can fully participate and provide feedback. Chairman Martin re-stated the motion to maintain the present make-up of the Commission. There was one dissenting vote, with the ayes carrying the motion.

Chairman Martin will circulate by email a proposed amendment to the by-laws for vote by the Commission to allow *ex-officio* Commission members who are standing committee members to vote on issues at the committee level.

Chairman Martin will circulate by email a proposed amendment to the by-laws for vote by the Commission to allow principal committee members to designate a proxy to ensure a quorum is present at committee meetings.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Base Sustainability & Community Affairs**

Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Committee Vice Chairman Bob Dickerson gave the Committee report. Topics covered include:

- Correspondence drafted by the Committee on 911 Call Centers, Sentinel Landscapes, and firefighter/EMS recertification fees
- Hofmann Forest - forming a trifecta between the State, NCSU and the federal government may lead to the ability to produce the \$4 million/year needed by NCSU and open the door to discussions between installations and the State, and lead to some federal funding. Should the price of timber begin to rise again, timber harvesting profits in excess of \$4 million dollars could offset the need for federal funding
- Col. Bottorff presented two draft resolutions for support by the NCMAC: 1) for expedited funding of and building the Havelock Bypass and, 2) a resolution to support retaining search-and-rescue-mission asset, PEDRO, at MCAS Cherry Point
- Specific cost for recertification of emergency personnel and firefighters is being researched to be relayed to the General Assembly

### **Quality of Life**

Quality of Life Committee Chairman Robert Anderson gave the Committee report. Chairman Anderson discussed the recommendations developed by the Quality of Life Committee:

- support of each installation's approach to 911 operations and designations
- the need for reciprocal recognition of licensing standards by the State of federally-run child care centers and a letter to Department of Health and Human Services expressing that request is recommended
- referring funding of federal firefighters and emergency personnel to Legislative Affairs Committee for legislation
- tax exemption for military retiree pay, which was briefly addressed by Representative George Cleveland who intends to reintroduce a bill seeking funding for this purpose. Sen. Brown added that Rep. Cleveland's draft bill could be narrowed to tax treatment of veterans' pay from tax treatment of retired government employees' pay to increase the likelihood of its passage.

### **Economic Development**

Joy Thrash gave the Committee's report on behalf of Committee Chairman Gary McKissock, briefing from the minutes of November 19 meeting. (Refer to Minutes of the November 19 Meeting of the Economic Development Committee, see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)

### **Legislative Affairs**

Chairman Harry Brown gave the Committee's report, including proposed legislative action to address NCMAC's top ten priorities. (Refer to Legislative Affairs Update power point presentation: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)

### **Executive Steering Group**

Commission Vice Chairman Paul Dordal gave the ESG report, including top ten priorities and status of actions of the NC MAC.

- The ESG received a status update on the SWOT analysis by the consultant team at the December 2 meeting
- Funding requirements were identified for inclusion in the Governor's budget. (Refer to power point presentation: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)
- A list of transportation projects is being requested of installation commanders for the purpose of comparison to the Department of Transportation's list of projects
- A bond project list will be circulated for review

### General Comments

Dr. Millsaps commented on the draft letter to R. Scott Ralls concerning waiver of fees for firefighter training/recertification. The NC Community Colleges System does not have the authority to waive fees, but the General Assembly does. He cautioned that the term "federal firefighter" is too broad and could cover personnel other than those it is intended to cover, and should be more narrowly defined.

Lt. Col. Joseph Anderson provided remarks concerning his attachment's return from Afghanistan.

### NC Commanders Council

Mr. Paul Friday gave a report on behalf of the NC Commanders Council.

- Presentations were given by state Agency representatives at this morning's meeting on working lands, the Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and Sentinel Landscapes
- Gen. Wilson updated the Council on legislative actions, highlighting the status of in-state tuition legislation.
- The National Guard's plan to upgrade facilities was briefed
- Capt. Johannsen briefed the Council on who interests in northeastern NC
- An updated brief on the joint military mapping effort was given. (Refer to Mapping, P. Friday power point presentation: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)

### Military Host Cities

The Military Host Cities report was given by Mayor Will Lewis.

- The Group has looked at the NC MAC's top ten priorities to decide where they could best engage in providing information and gathering data. Examples include the 911/PSAP issue, firefighter/EMS recertification, etc.
- Working groups have been established to relay resulting information to the MAC's standing Committees, e.g., the Havelock Bypass resolution being brought to the attention of the Base Sustainability & Community Affairs Committee.
- Ron Massey, Jacksonville Asst. City Manager, addressed the matter of inaccuracy in census figures because of active duty personnel deployment. This will be discussed with the Governor's staff as well as Governors of other states about how to ensure deployed personnel are included in the 2020 census.

Quality of Life Committee Chairman Anderson made a motion to refer funding for Cumberland County schools to the Legislative Affairs Committee, which was seconded and followed by discussion. When the question was called, the motion was defeated by a show of seven hands opposed, with two being for the motion.

### **Division of Veterans Affairs**

Asst. Secretary of Division of Veterans Affairs Ilario Pantano briefed the Commission on the Veterans' Resource Guide, a part of the NC4Vets initiative, which was distributed. The Guide was paid for by DHHS and Department of Commerce. The Guide will be made available in separation briefs that are provided to separating military personnel. This year's focus will be fine tuning the Governor's Working Group, employment, GI Bill, augmenting assisting to homeless veterans.

### **NC Working Lands**

Bryan Gossage of DENR gave a report on the NC Working Lands Group. (Refer to power point presentation 20LWS Military Buffer Presentation: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)

### **Transitioning Vets to Employment**

Kimberly Lindsay gave an update report on the Veterans' Employment Initiative. The Governor's video endorsing the hiring of veterans was shared with the Commission, and will be used at the upcoming Society of Human Resource Managers. The importance of small business employers and the fact that up to 75% of separating military personnel will be employed by a small business was highlighted. Ms. Lindsay gave a presentation by power point. (Refer to power point presentation Employer Awareness: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).)

### **New Business**

MG Cornel Wilson reported on the proposed budget that the ESG approved for submission to the Governor. He also discussed the bond piece that the Governor is being asked to include in his budget. (Refer to "budget handout: see Meetings and Documents section of [ncommerce/mac.com](http://ncommerce/mac.com).) Chairman Martin made a motion to accept the proposed Budget, which was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Future Meetings/Final Comments**

- Future meetings are posted to the NC MAC website
- The NC MAC brochures are available for distribution
- The NC MAC website is being relocated to a standalone site
- Talking points to be addressed with CoDel's are evolving and should be ready by January of 2015
- Chairman Martin and Vice Chairman Dordal intend to meet with Tim Moore, the new Speaker of the House

At 4:16, Chairman Martin gave closing remarks thanking Fort Bragg for hosting the Commission meeting, and adjourned the meeting.

