Meeting Participants

Task Force Members:
Rep. John Grange, Kansas, Co-Chair
Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Texas, Co-Chair (via phone)
Rep. Gary Banz, Oklahoma
Rep. Tom Sloan, Kansas
Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, New Jersey
Rep. Dan Flynn, Texas
Rep. Melvin Neufeld, Kansas, NCSL Vice President
Sen. Dick Moore, Massachusetts, NCSL President-Elect

Speakers:
Karen Malebranche, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
David Duma, Office of the Secretary of Defense
Bob Barnes, The Nature Conservancy
Frank DiGiovanni, Office of the Secretary of Defense
Lt. Col Joe Knott, Army National Guard
Tom Pamperin, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Stanley L. Rasmussen, U.S. Army

Other Participants:
Jaime Uss, ManTech
Michael Behm, Stateside Associates

Meeting Summary

9:00 am – 9:30 am  Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Representative John Grange, Kansas

Representative John Grange welcomed the task force members and Department of Defense participants and reviewed the agenda.
9:30 am – 10:00 am  Quality of Life Issues

Moderator: Representative John Grange, Kansas
Speaker: Ed Kringer, Director, State Liaison & Educational Opportunity, US Department of Defense

Ed Kringer, provided the Task Force with an update of their state liaison activities. The Department of Defense focuses on 10 key state-level issues to educate policy makers. These issues, which are updated annually, are:

- Increase key support for Guard and Reserve members and their families;
- Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions;
- Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families;
- Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment;
- Enhance opportunities for portable careers for military spouses;
- Expand unemployment compensation for trailing military spouses;
- Promote enforcement of the predatory lending regulation;
- Improve absentee voting for military members and their families;
- Comport state laws with DoD rules on disposition; and
- Enhance foreign language capability through ‘Centers of Influence.’

10:00 am – 11:00 am  Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration (VHA): Karen Malebranche, Deputy Chief Officer, Office of Legislative, Regulatory, & Intergovernmental Affairs

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): Tom Pamperin, Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Programs

Karen Malebranche presented on delivery of health care for veterans across the country.

- In 2009, the VA treated more than 5.7 million veterans in a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient clinics, community living centers, residential rehabilitation programs and vet centers.
- The VA is the largest civilian employer in the federal government with over 235,000 employees.
- The VA’s outreach and access plan includes: readjustment counseling for women veterans; transport for immobilized and rural veterans; access to care in rural areas and timely access by implementing best practices.
- Over 100,000 veterans helped through the suicide prevention hotline over a 2-year period.
- Outreach to rural veterans include the use of community outpatient clinics, telehome health, telemedicine and fee basis.
- The VA has improved both patient satisfaction and access over the past 6 years.
Tom Pamperin, discussed the programs at the VBA designed to assist veterans. These include:

- Compensation & Pension
  - For veterans: disability compensation and disability pension
  - For survivors: dependency and indemnity compensation, death pension and burial allowance
- Education
  - $8.9 billion in anticipated education expenditures in FY 2009
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
  - 77,229 veterans received vocational rehabilitation benefits in FY 2009
  - $723 million vocational rehabilitation benefits paid in FY 2009
- Loan Guaranty
  - Provides for home financing assistance for veterans and service members
  - Supplemental loan servicing to veterans with financial difficulties
- Insurance
  - Life insurance (service members, service members’ family, veterans, disabled veterans)
  - Traumatic injury protection
  - Mortgage life insurance
- Benefits Assistance
  - Established October 2, 2009
  - Client-centered approach for outreach and public contact activities

11:00 – 11:30

**Army National Guard**

*Speaker: Lt Col Joe Knott, Sustainability, Headquarters, Army National Guard*

Lt. Col. Joe Knott, provided the Task Force with the current status of the Army Guard Sustainability.

- 3.8 million acres of land
- 643 maintenance facilities
- Mandatory for all new military construction built to LEED standards
- Continuation of funding for Compatible Use Buffers
- 2 pending items:
  - Army Sustainability Campaign Plan
  - Army Guard Sustainability Policy and Guidance

11:30 am – 12:30 pm       **Lunch**
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| 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | **Panel Presentation – Encroachment and Readiness**  
Moderator: Representative John Grange, Kansas  
Sam Kleinman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Readiness  
John Conger, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations & Environment  
David Duma, Principal Deputy, Directorate of Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)  
Bob Barnes, National Defense Liaison, The Nature Conservancy |
| 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm | **Energy Session**  
Moderator: Representative John Grange, Kansas  
Speaker: Frank DiGiovanni, Director, Readiness and Training, OSD and Stanley Rasmussen, Regional Counsel, Department of Defense, Kansas City, Missouri |

Frank DiGiovanni, presented on balancing energy, the environment and defense.  
- Perfect storm on the horizon due to energy security, national security, operational realities (troops leaving Afghanistan and Iraq), global repositioning, growth of forces, environmental stewardship, and a renewable energy “gold rush.”  
- Solutions to move forward include:  
  - Strategic communication (national, state/local and internal Department of Defense)  
  - Legislation (tax incentives, standardized siting, etc)  
- Policy, process and procedures  
- Research agenda  

Stanley Rasmussen, Regional Counsel, Department of Defense, Kansas City, Missouri, provided a briefing on Wind Power Development and Military Installations.  
- Potential impacts of wind turbines  
  - Interference with radar systems  
    - Long range military radars  
    - Weather radars  
  - Military training routes and activities  
- Regulatory framework usually allows for local permitting  
- Depending on size and location, may require federal permits or reviews |
| 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm | **Break** |
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm  Task Force Planning Session

During this session, task force members will hear an update on NCSL web-based Military and Veterans Affairs resources, as well as state map resources, discuss planning for the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky (July 25-28) and hear an update on the task force policies that were presented to the NCSL Executive Committee in January.

Moderator: Representative John Grange, Kansas