Welcome and Introductions- Senator John Douglas, Co-chair

Warriors in Transition
- DoD provided an overview from transition departments.
  - Wounded and returning warrior programs are not well coordinated.
  - DoD is working on better integrating and coordinating their programs.
- Operation War Fighter Program, Patrick Grip
  - Program helps warriors as they transition through services that focus on education or workforce
  - Goal of program: positive impact on duty.
  - Members that participate are associated with their service, therefore funding isn’t necessary at this time.
  - Primary focus: build resumes of transitioning warriors.
  - Operation war fighter program being expanded to cover community based WTU (warrior transition unit), so that warriors can engage closer to home
  - DoD is working to develop resume service.
  - Employers are limited to Federal facilities while they are still in active duty.

- Heroes to hometown program, ?? Presenters name needed??
  - Program provides returning warriors and veterans with a mentor in their own community.
  - American Legion, VFW, State Veterans of Affairs are partners
  - Program not working as well as they had hoped. Communication is a problem.
  - The Marine Corps is one of the most enthusiastic partners.
  - Only 6 months in existence.
  - Heroes to hometown will hopefully provide service members with a clear and easy source for information, and also provide them with a resource (mentor) that will periodically check in with them.
  - Every transitioning solider is given contact information for the program
  - Folds of Honor program, non-profit organization with nationwide coverage, primary focus to provide educational opportunities for fallen soldiers.

Keynote Presentation: Vice Admiral Michael Vitale
- Navy consolidated services under one command recently
- Two primary missions:
  - Managing all infrastructure
  - And ensure that when future arrives the Navy is ready
- Other concerns:
  - Encroachment: by far biggest problem military faces today
• Impact of NGO’s (sierra club, NRDC). They are organizing and will drum up support that will be difficult to overcome.
• Encroachment concerns as growth in renewable energy continues
  • Navy is 1/2 of the size as it was in 1985- in his opinion it will only continue to get smaller.
  • Overseas Challenges:
    • The Chairman may move 8,000 out of OK to Guam. Preparatory measures being taken in Guam now.
    • Managing change- we are involved in many transitional dynamics now, such as China using ½ of the world’s oil, steel, and copper, resources.
  • Energy Issues there are minor conservation efforts that the Navy can undertake and renewable energy also being worked on. They are supposed to drop consumption 30% by 2050 and as long as the size of the Navy continues to shrink this will be achieved. Additionally they are going to advance metering, metering facilities and wireless connected.
  • Privatizing housing has given sailors the best housing they’ve had in 30 years and repairs are addressed quickly.
  • Childcare: balancing act of providing important service and funding.
  • Attempting to get service members off of ships and into on-ground barracks. They are weak on this initiative right now.
  • There have not been significant increase in divorces in the Navy because the Navy is always deployed.

**Education and child care issues facing military families, Ed Kringer**

• OSD owner on childcare, Caroline
  • Program covers the 20% of military families not covered.
  • Childcare is a workforce issue and therefore it is important to look away from the installation. This is a shift from the way OSD has approached childcare in the past.
  • Challenge: how to provide and assist parents in finding affordable, quality childcare for families
  • DoD in final stages of drafting assessment tool (ERIS) and it will be important to work in partnership with states on implementation. ERIS will improve quality of childcare for civilian and for workforce families by helping facilities get beyond accreditation problems.
  • 17 states with QRS
  • A military member can take their child to facility not on installation and costs will be covered up to the price of on base installation.
  • Goal: 1. quality in communities to same standards as on base child care.
  • ERIS criteria standards look at a mix of low/ no cost and licensing standards.
    • Criteria based on Dr. Phiney’s research based indicators.
  • No costs to states, putting money behind program to help states achieve.
  • Program is in final stages of development and has not been executed
  • Utilize resources of joint family assistance programs, etc, to alert families that this resource is available to them.
  • They are in the process of developing resources to know where states are in the accreditation process.
- They are looking at states that currently have statewide quality rating systems first.
- As the program is developed, regional liaisons will work with the states.
- States developing early childhood advisory council. Working to get states to adopt quality rating systems.
- This is an issue that Ed would like to see the Task Force take on as a major issue.
  - Education, Ed Kinger
    - Interstate compact and educational opportunity. Last year
      - 11 states joined compact. Legislation passed both houses in TX, AK, WA, MD. Legislation active in 16 other states. Hopes to have PA, NJ. Could be 24-26 states by end of the year. Have possibility of covering 60-70% of military children by end of year.
    - GA is a flawed copy, although DoD did not actively oppose it.
    - Ed would like to have the Task Force’s support on this issue
    - USA4Militaryfamilies.org is a helpful website.

**Sustaining the military mission, Jan and John Seibert**

Motorcycle Safety, John Seibert
  - Increase in motorcycle fatalities.
  - We try to set standards in DoD, but once riders leave the base military there is no enforcement
  - Young guys wear helmets, but older guys refuse.
  - Roughly 1/2 our fatalities happened because not wearing helmets.
  - Training is important- most states have incentives for training.
  - Cooperation between military and local police department for programs.
  - DoD would like to see motorcycle helmet laws in all states and/or law of unintended consequences.
  - Send ideas to Jan. Also, John has tons of state by state statistics.

Community Liaisons, Jan
  - CPLO: work directly for the commander.
  - Commanders Council: DoD is encouraging commanders within each state to form commanders councils, get so that all commanders get together and discuss issues every 6 months and also meet with the Governor once a year. Arizona is a good example. Would like to have Council in each state.
  - Contact DoD office’s Arrange a Tour program

Readiness and environmental protection program
  - Money we get from Congress for buffer zones around installations.
  - Tremendous state support for this program.
  - In many cases Land Trust contracts have been signed around military installations, but money being taken away. Congressional support is important in these situations.

Regional Partnerships
  - Looking for multiple and mutual benefits that are good for everyone.
  - Southeast: handout given.

**Upcoming Meetings**
NCSL Legislative Summit
  o Philadelphia, July 20th-24th
  o Committee recommended Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th
  o DOD will put together a proposed schedule and tour and Task Force will make final decision
Sustaining Military Conference
  • Phoenix, August 9th-14th
    o Would like to have meeting with various state partners.
NCSL Fall Forum
  • San Diego, December 9th-12th
Fr. AP Hill
  • June 8th-9th tour focusing on sustainability and encroachment issues.