This task force was created in 2007 to address issues affecting military-community relations and the health and well-being of veterans. Among the issues covered: development near military installations; military-community partnerships to respond to mission change; veteran hiring and procurement preferences; mental health, substance abuse and family relationships facing returning veterans; and benefits for military personnel, veterans and their dependents. The task force consists of 59 state legislators and legislative staff from 27 states.

Co-Chairs:
Representative Dan Flynn, Texas
Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Texas

NCSL Staff:
Jim Reed, Group Director
Brooke Oleen Tieperman, Senior Policy Specialist
Jennifer Schultz, Research Analyst II
Jon Jukuri, Labor and Economic Development Committee Director

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Full Breakfast is served

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs Convenes
Opening Remarks by Task Force Co-Chairs: Representative Dan Flynn, Texas and Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Texas
Pledge of Allegiance

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Task force member discussion concerning key legislative issues and identify priorities for 2015

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. | State Services for Veterans
This session will focus on Minnesota state programs to assist veterans struggling with homelessness and mental health issues, as well as community initiatives to support service members and their families during and after deployment.

Presiding: Representative Tim Cosgrove, Utah

Speakers:
Eric Grumdahl, Special Advisor on Ending Veteran Homelessness, Minnesota
Judge Kerry Meyer, Hennepin County Veterans Court
Annette Kuyper, Director of Military Outreach, MN Dep’t of Military Affairs
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<td>10:15 – 10:45 a.m.</td>
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| 10:45 – 12:00 p.m.  | Innovative Land Use Strategies to Protect Military Bases – Case Study of Camp Ripley, Minnesota  
*Joint with NCSL Agriculture Task Force*  
Uncoordinated and incompatible development and urban sprawl are a growing threat to the nation’s military installations and local economies. In many states, the military is among the largest industries and employers and is directly responsible for the economic health of neighboring communities by generating a steady stream of revenue and jobs. Preventing incompatible land uses and protecting an installation’s ability to realistically train Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines is a way of avoiding putting the viability of that “mission” at risk.  
Learn about how innovative land use strategies and cost-sharing partnerships such as Sentinel Landscapes can protect the local economy, agricultural working lands, critical habitat and at the same time sustain military readiness.  
*Presiding: Representative Dan Flynn, Texas*  
*Welcome: Senator Paul Gazelka and Senator Carrie Ruud, Minnesota*  
*Speakers:*  
Kristin Thomasgard, Program Director for Policy, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)  
Major General Richard C. Nash, Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard  
Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
John Jaschke, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Representative John Ward, Minnesota State Legislature  
Representative Ron Kresha, Minnesota State Legislature  
| 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. | BREAK                                                                |
| 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.  | Empowering Agency Response – Beating Backlogs and Helping Healthcare  
Texas leaders have called upon the Texas Veterans Commission to help address crises that have arisen at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the last several years. Whether working to address an influx of claims related to Agent Orange exposure in 2009, helping to beat the VA backlog in Texas with the State Strike Force and Fully Developed Claims Teams since 2012, or now working on behalf of veterans encountering challenges accessing VA healthcare, the state of Texas has demonstrated a continuing commitment to advocating for veterans and their families.  
*Presiding: Representative Dan Flynn, Texas*  
*Speaker: Kyle Mitchell, Deputy Executive Director, Texas Veterans Commission*  
|
**1:00 – 1:15 p.m.**  | Task Force Wrap-Up  
**1:15 p.m.**  | Adjournment  

Additional Sessions of Interest:

**Tuesday August 19, 2014**

| 3:00 – 4:45 p.m. | Military and Veterans Affairs Economic Outlook  
**Location:**  
Minneapolis Convention Center  
Level 2-200DEFG  

*Joint with the Labor & Economic Development and Budgets and Revenue Committees; and Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force*

*Speakers:*
  - **Tim Ford**, Association of Defense Communities  
  - **Michael Gilroy**, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment

**Thursday August 21, 2014**

| 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | Robocops: From Phones to Drones  
**Location:**  
Minneapolis Convention Center  
Level 1 - Auditorium Room 1  

*Continuing Legal Education*

*New technologies can help investigators solve crimes in ways once thought impossible. But debate continues over how to balance a person’s 4th Amendment protection from unreasonable search and seizure with the community benefits gained from these new tools.*

*Speakers:*
  - **Alan Frazier**, University of North Dakota  
  - **Wade Setter**, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Minnesota

**UPCOMING TASK FORCE MEETINGS:** NCSL FALL FORUM, DEC. 9-10, WASHINGTON, D.C.