



NCSL TASK FORCE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENDA

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 54 state legislators and legislative staff from 26 states.

Co-Chairs:

Representative Dan Flynn, Texas
 Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii

NCSL Staff:

Jim Reed, Group Director | Brooke Oleen Tieperman, Senior Policy Specialist | Jennifer Schultz, Policy Associate
 Jon Jukuri, Labor and Economic Development Committee Director

Monday, August 3, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:00 – 8:10 a.m.	NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs Convenes
Location: Sheraton Hotel 1400 6 th Avenue Room - Redwood A	Opening Remarks by Task Force Co-Chairs: Representative Dan Flynn, Texas and Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii Pledge of Allegiance Introductions: Task Force Members and Guests
8:10 – 8:20 a.m.	Welcome to Washington
	<i>Speaker:</i> Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, Adjutant General, Washington National Guard
8:20 – 8:35 a.m.	Discussion of Proposed Policy Resolutions
	<i>Sponsor:</i> Representative Tom Sloan, Kansas

8:35 – 9:15 a.m.	<p>From Military Service to “Green” Service: Lessons from the Washington State Veterans Conservation Corps</p> <p>A partnership between Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the Center for Natural Lands Management, and the Veterans Conservation Corps protects the military mission while providing job training to veterans in the environmental field.</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Kristin Thomsgard-Spence, Program Director, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations & Environment)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Hannah Anderson, Program Manager, Center for Natural Lands Management, Olympia, Washington Jason Alves, Program Manager, Veterans Conservation Corps, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Matt West, Intern Coordinator, Veterans Conservation Corps, Olympia, Washington</p>
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	<p>Update from the DoD-State Liaison Office</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Thomas Hinton, Senior State Liaison, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)</p>
9:30 – 10:10 a.m.	<p>Potential Impacts from Defense Budget Cuts & Available Resources</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Dan Flynn, Texas</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Gary Willis, Program Director, U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, Washington, D.C. Kristiné Reeves, Governor’s Military and Defense Sector Lead, Washington Department of Commerce</p>
10:10 – 10:25 a.m.	<p>BREAK</p>
10:25 – 10:55 a.m.	<p>U.S. Army Reserve: “Twice the Citizen”</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Dan Flynn, Texas</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Maj. Gen. Glenn Lesniak, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve</p>
10:55 – 11:15 a.m.	<p>Veterans Hiring Commitments in the Private Sector</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Bill McSherry, Vice President of State and Local Government, and Global Corporate Citizenship, Boeing Company, Washington</p>

<p>11:15 – Noon</p>	<p>Military Suicide Prevention</p> <p>This session explores efforts in Washington State to expand suicide prevention and mental health care for veterans.</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Tina Orwall, Washington</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Lourdes E. “Alfie” Alvarado-Ramos, Director, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Sue Eastgard, Director of Training, Forefront: Innovations in Suicide Prevention, Seattle, Washington</p> <p>Paul Quinnett, President and CEO, QPR Institute, Inc., Spokane, Washington</p> <p>Scot Pondelick, President, National Alliance to End Veteran Suicide; Chair, King County Veterans Advisory Board; Co-Founder, The Veterans Resource Fair</p>
<p>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Sponsored by</i> <i>Easter Seals</i></p> <p>Location: Sheraton Hotel Aspen Room</p> <p><i>Lunch Provided</i></p>	<p>State Support for Female Veterans</p> <p><i>Joint with Women’s Legislative Network of NCSL</i></p> <p>This session will examine how states are addressing the unique needs of female veterans regarding education, employment and reintegration.</p> <p><i>Presiding:</i> Representative Tina Orwall, Washington</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Col. David W. Sutherland, U.S. Army (Ret.). Chairman and Co-Founder, Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Kimberly M. Mitchell (Former U.S. Navy), President and Co-Founder, Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>

Additional Sessions of Interest:

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

<p>12:30 – 1:45 p.m.</p> <p><i>Sponsored by</i> <i>Americans for the Arts</i></p> <p>Location: Convention Center WC606</p> <p><i>Lunch Provided</i></p>	<p>The Arts & Well-Being Across the Military Continuum</p> <p>Overview of the current literature and programs surrounding arts therapy with our military veterans and what you can do in your state to promote this initiative.</p> <p><i>Joint with the Labor & Economic Development Committee</i></p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Jay Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Americans for the Arts, Washington, D.C.</p> <p><i>Panelist:</i> Marete Wester, Americans for the Arts, New York</p>
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Wednesday, August 5, 2015

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Robert Gates: The Challenge of Politics and America's Global Standing

General Session

Location:
*Convention Center
Ballroom 6ABC*

Robert Gates served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011) and is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected President. President Barack Obama is the eighth president Gates has served. He previously served under President George W. Bush. On Gates' last day in office, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. An Eagle Scout and president of the Boy Scouts of America, Gates is the author of *Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War*, a profoundly personal story and an insightful look into two administrations and the wars that defined them.