

MINUTES
 STATE OF NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS
 301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95083, Lincoln, NE 68509-5083
 June 8, 2021 - 12:30 p.m.
 301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor, NDVA

The Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs (Commission) met on June 8, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA), 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

In compliance with the provisions of *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411*, printed notice of this meeting was posted at NDVA. In addition, the notice was published in the Omaha World Herald on page C6 on May 26, 2021, and posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar (nebraska.gov) on May 5, 2021.

In compliance with the provisions of *Neb. Rev. Stat. §55-602 and §55-603*, a quorum was established with five of six voting members present. A written notice of the time and place of the meeting was mailed to all members in advance of the meeting. The aim of these minutes is to comply with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, specifically *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1413*.

Commissioners present (voting members):

Major General Daryl Bohac, Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard
 John Hilgert, Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
 Tami Thompson, 1st Congressional District
 Dan Donovan, 2nd Congressional District
 Dave Bloomfield, 3rd Congressional District

Commissioners present (nonvoting, ex officio members):

Joshua Whited, Veterans' Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor
 Mike Navrkal, Chair, State Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
 Nikki Nader, 55th Wing Designee
 Major General Bob Stevenson, U.S. Strategic Command Designee
 Colonel Steven Vilpors, 557th Weather Wing Designee

Commissioners excused (voting member):

Anthony Goins, Director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Commissioners excused (nonvoting, ex officio members):

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m. by Phil O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison.

II. ROLL CALL

Bohac, Hilgert, Thompson, Donovan, Bloomfield, Whited, Navrkal, Nader, and Stevenson, were present. Goins and Vilpors were excused. Vilpors joined at 12:37 p.m.

III. ENTRY OF PUBLIC NOTICE INTO THE RECORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, SPECIFICALLY *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411*. ADVISE THE PUBLIC THAT THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT APPLIES AND IS PUBLICALLY POSTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412*.

Military Affairs Liaison, Phil O'Donnell, announced the location of the Open Meetings Act on the wall of the NDVA training room. O'Donnell also noted the public notice of the meeting was posted in the Omaha World Herald (page C6) on May 26, 2021, and posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar (nebraska.gov) on May 5, 2021.

IV. MOTION TO DESIGNATE ENTRY OF PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS IN THE OMAHA WORLD HERALD AND ON THE NEBRASKA.GOV CALENDAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411* – Action/Vote

Moved by Bloomfield and seconded by Donovan to designate entry of public notice in the Omaha World Herald and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on nebraska.gov. Voting Aye: Bohac, Hilgert, Thompson, Donovan, Bloomfield. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – Action/Vote

O'Donnell thanked Kelly Ostrander for her support in the preparation of the minutes.

Moved by Hilgert and seconded by Bohac to approve the November 6, 2020 Commission meeting minutes. Voting Aye: Bohac, Hilgert, Thompson, Donovan, Bloomfield. Motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – June 8, 2021

In accordance with provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412, the public shall have the right to attend meetings of the Commission and to speak on matters related to Commission business. Any person may appear before and address the Commission concerning any item on the agenda for that meeting. Further, any person may appear before and address the Commission at any annual or scheduled meeting on any matter concerning the Commission not on the agenda by notifying the Commission Secretary in advance of the meeting at which the person desires to address the Commission. A reasonable time limit [usually five (5) minutes] shall be placed upon each individual appearance before the Board, and no more than thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed for public comment, unless a majority of the quorum present shall extend such time limit. The Chairperson shall have the right to prohibit appearances by persons presenting needlessly repetitious or redundant testimony.

Ron Dupell, Chief Master Sergeant United States Air Force (Retired), introduced himself and expressed appreciation for the support of the Commission and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs. Dupell noted that Nebraska is paying more attention to Offutt Air Force Base

(AFB) and the Nebraska National Guard. Dupell described how with the passage of LB387, the Nebraska Veterans Coalition (NVC) is asking “What is next? What do we need to do to truly make Nebraska an attractive place to live for veterans and active duty personnel?” Dupell asked the Commission to think about the future and know that the NVC is going to continue to advocate for the establishment of a “Home Base Nebraska” and a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment program within Nebraska. Dupell noted that the NVC believes there needs to be a marketing effort to sell Nebraska to everybody, sell it to veterans, and make veterans aware of what we have in Nebraska. Dupell noted that Nebraska should be “sold” during the in-processing briefings for military personnel. Dupell recognized that there are limits to what can be done; but asks the Commission to consider what can be done and help nurture that along.

Susan Schmidt, a retired Navy nurse with Nebraska Veterans Coalition, shared her research into what is briefed during through the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Schmidt offered that the majority of the material is focused on federal benefits and believes that there is an opportunity to share more state-specific benefits through TAP. Schmidt was also surprised to learn that the respective Chambers of Commerce are not always aware of what is going on in their respective cities and that they do not always communicate with each other.

Hilgert asked about the timing of the experience, specifically what is the time period between leaving the service and attendance at TAP.

Schmidt noted that it was her understanding that a servicemember could attend up to 12 months prior to their separation from the service. Schmidt noted that a servicemember will only get out of TAP what they put into it and that a TAP class offered in Nebraska is, for the most part, the same that one would receive in Nevada.

Hilgert asked if there was a way to sell Nebraska earlier, perhaps during the incoming briefs?

Dupell affirmed that he believes Nebraska should be sold during the incoming briefs.

James Manning, a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) for the Nebraska Department of Labor, shared his recent experience retiring from the Navy. Manning described the timing of his TAP attendance and the role of headhunters in placing nuclear engineers. Manning suggested connecting with the three main headhunters for nuclear engineers.

Schmidt asked Manning if he attended TAP in-person or online.

Manning confirmed that he participated in person.

Schmidt asked if there is a way that a local segment could be added to the online version of TAP.

Manning indicated that the Nebraska Department of Labor used to send a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) to the TAP class at Offutt and offered that the LVER should participate again.

Whited confirmed that NDOL would send a LVER once in-person TAP resumes.

Andrew Kohlan, with the Nebraska Veterans Coalition, shared his transition experience retiring out

of Offutt AFB in the 1980s.

O'Donnell thanked the public for their time and input.

VII. DELIBERATION – COMMISSION REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, COURSES OF ACTION

Neb. Rev. Stat. §55-606. Report; contents.

The Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs shall prepare an annual report summarizing the military assets of Nebraska, including installations and missions, and the economic impact of the military assets in Nebraska. The report shall also include recommendations for preserving and sustaining military assets and missions existing in Nebraska and recommendations for actions which the state can take to encourage expanding such assets and missions. The commission shall submit the report electronically to the Legislature, the Governor, and the commanding officer of every military base in Nebraska on or before November 15 of each year.

O'Donnell introduced Dr. Eric Thompson (via Zoom) and Dr. Mitch Herian from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bureau of Business Research.

Thompson thanked the Commission for the opportunity to develop a research proposal to study the economic impact of Nebraska's military assets and address three special topics. Thompson stated that the ongoing economic impact assessment would focus on Offutt AFB, the Nebraska National Guard, and federal Reserve forces located within the State. Thompson also noted that the assessment would include the economic impact of programs for veterans such as healthcare and other veterans programming. Thompson reaffirmed that the methodology would be consistent with prior assessments. Thompson described the potential addition of more information regarding construction activity.

Herian described three special studies. Study 1 would be a quantitative DoD supply chain analysis using the federal procurement data system to identify Nebraska businesses that are doing business with the DoD. Study 1 may also include a qualitative analysis through informational interviews to add context to the quantitative analysis. Study 2 would be a review of veteran demographic changes in Nebraska relative to other states. Study 2 would attempt to ascertain whether or not the decrease in the veteran population is a result of natural causes or out-migration. Additionally, study 2 would confirm how consistent the decrease in veterans in Nebraska is aligned with national trends. Study 3 would be an analysis of the methodology to assess legislation and regulatory reforms. The goal of study 3 would be to improve the assessment of legislation and regulatory reforms in order to help inform the Commission's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

O'Donnell opened the floor to questions.

Bohac offered some thoughts which may influence the special studies. Bohac described an increase in the retention of military personnel which in the short term has been higher than expected. Bohac described how the active duty Air Force now expects an end strength of 3,400 personnel over their original projection for October (2021) which means that people are not leaving the service. Bohac noted that a number of leaders are assuming that this increase in retention is

associated with the economic uncertainty created by COVID19. Bohac also expressed an interest in the role of a decrease in the overall size of the Armed Forces as it relates to the population of veterans. Arguably, the decreasing size of the Armed Forces would lead to a decreasing population of veterans. Finally, Bohac noted that overall tax rates should be taken into account.

Herian clarified that the research team should control for the fact that there is a lower number of people entering the Armed Forces.

Bohac confirmed Herian's clarification by describing how the Armed Forces are the smallest they have been since World War II and how projections for the federal fiscal year 2022 DoD budget are expected to be flat to negative (negative by not keeping up with inflation). Bohac expressed interest in how much these factors influence the veteran population.

O'Donnell asked Thompson if he had any questions.

Thompson indicated that he did not have any questions.

Hilgert offered thoughts regarding special study 3 relating to real estate license fee exemption. Hilgert described how there could be a number of reasons why legislation may or may not have impact. Reasons could include: the underlying assumptions of whether or not the legislation was needed or public awareness. Hilgert offered that it may be useful to analyze how states successfully advertise their legislative or regulatory reforms.

O'Donnell opened the floor to additional questions.

Whited asked if the study could be expanded to include the spouses of military members coming to the State of Nebraska. Whited also asked if it would be possible to identify the types of occupations or education level of military retirees moving to Nebraska.

Herian stated that it would be possible to estimate the number of spouses (as in previous studies). Regarding occupations and education level, Herian was not aware of a methodology to identify those traits.

Schmidt asked Herian if member of the Reserves have been included in the research.

Herian confirmed that the Reserves would be included in the report.

VIII. MOTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH FOR Economic Impact of Nebraska Military Assets: Update for FY 2020 PROPOSAL DATED MAY 26, 2021 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF *Neb. Rev. Stat. §55-605 and §55-606* – Action/Vote

Moved by Thompson and seconded by Donovan to contract with the University of Nebraska Bureau of Business Research for the Economic Impact of Nebraska Military Assets: Update for FY2020 proposal dated May 26, 2021 pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. §55-605 and §55-606*. Voting Aye: Bohac, Hilgert, Thompson, Donovan, Bloomfield. Motion carried.

IX. U.S. SPACE COMMAND UPDATE – Military Affairs Liaison

Phil O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison for the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs, will provide an update regarding the City of Bellevue's self-nomination to host the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.

O'Donnell reviewed the history of the U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) headquarters basing decision:

- May 14, 2020, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment and Energy), John Henderson, wrote to the nation's Governors requesting a Governor's endorsement of any self-nominations by communities to host the future headquarters of USSPACECOM.
- June 29, 2020, Governor Ricketts and Mayor Hike submitted their joint nomination for the City of Bellevue, home of Offutt AFB, to host the permanent headquarters for the U.S. Space Command.
- July 24, 2020, the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs affirmed its support of competing for the USSPACECOM HQ.
- July 24, 2020, the Department of the Air Force Strategic Basing Office (SAF/IEIB) confirmed the City of Bellevue's successful nomination and provided an Evaluation Phase Nominee Questionnaire, Instructions, and a memo from Assistant Secretary Henderson.
- August 28, 2020, the USSPACECOM Basing Evaluation Questionnaire for Bellevue Nebraska was returned to SAF/IEIB. Additionally, a revised "Support of Military Families" assessment for Offutt AFB was submitted.
- On or about August 31, 2020, the 55th Wing submitted a separate questionnaire from SAF/IEIB regarding current capacity for medical, childcare, military housing, and distinguished visitor transportation.
- September 21, 2020, SAF/IEIB requested specific coordinates for one location (instead of the multiple locations presented in the evaluation phase questionnaire).
- September 22, 2020, coordinates for the proposed site along with a visual presentation were sent to SAF/IEIB.
- November 6, 2020, the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs was briefed on the Evaluation Phase Questionnaire submission. Additionally, the 55th Wing Designee for the Commission discussed the Wing's assessment and associated installation questionnaire.
- November 19, 2020, the Department of the Air Force announced that the City of Bellevue, Nebraska has been designated as one of six locations to participate in the next phase of the process to select the permanent U.S. Space Command Headquarters (USSPACECOM HQ).¹
- November 25, 2020, the community received an email indicating that there would be a Selection Phase community questionnaire (similar to the evaluation phase questionnaire)

requesting additional detailed information to inform analysis of the criteria. Additional instructions would accompany the questionnaires.

- December 7, 2020, the community received an email indicating that there would not be a Selection Phase community questionnaire.
- December 14, 2020, SAF/IEIB executed an in-person, “military to military,” site visit at Offutt AFB with the 55th Wing. The site visit team focused on validating existing conditions and capturing information to facilitate construction cost estimating. Tim Burke and Phil O’Donnell presented additional community and State enhancements at the beginning of the site visit. The 55th Wing reported no significant issues from the site survey team.

O’Donnell described how the effort grew to become a state-wide effort after the announcement on November 19th. O’Donnell described the development of a nearly \$107 million enhancement package with a myriad of public and private partners.

- On or about December 18, 2020, the 55WG submitted a response to an installation Selection Phase questionnaire.
- December 22, 2020, SAF/IEIB hosted a “virtual” visit with the community. Key leaders included Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and Environment, John Henderson, Principal Deputy Assistant of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and Environment, Jennifer Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Robert Moriarty. Governor Ricketts led Nebraska’s presentation with support from U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, University of Nebraska President Ted Carter, Dr. Gina Ligon, Bellevue Mayor Rusty Hike, Omaha Public Power District President and Air Force Civic Leader Tim Burke, and Col Gavin Marks, Commander of the 55th Wing.

O’Donnell described the development of a community enhancement package (given that there was not a formal Selection Phase community questionnaire to respond to).

- December 30, 2020, SAF/IE received all final materials for consideration.
- January 13, 2021, Carol Ann Beda, Director, Strategic Basing, informed the community of Secretary Barrett’s “preferred location decision” (Redstone Arsenal). A “complete environmental analysis and SecAF final decision” is expected in Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023). “Full operational capability (MILCON complete, personnel in place) is expected in Fiscal Year 2027” (October 2, 2026 to September 30, 2027). Offutt AFB was selected as a reasonable alternative and will undergo the appropriate environmental analysis.²
- February 11, 2021, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Jennifer Miller (Energy, Installations, and Environment) briefed Nebraska’s congressional delegation on the U.S. Space Command Headquarters Selection Process.
- February 19, 2021 the Department of Defense Inspector General announced that it will evaluate the extent to which the Department of the Air Force:
 - Complied with DoD and Air Force policies during the location selection phase.

- Used objective and relevant scoring factors to rank the six candidate locations.
- Calculated the cost and other scoring factors accurately and consistently among the six candidate locations.
- February 24, 2021, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations) Robert Moriarty, briefed Governor Ricketts on the U.S. Space Command Headquarters Selection Process.

O'Donnell noted that the Department of the Air Force confirmed that the community could receive a briefing on the process.

- March 19, 2021 the Government Accountability Office responded to Colorado Rep. Doug Lamborn to “review matters relating to the methodology and scoring of the Department of the Air Force’s decision-making process for the location of the permanent headquarters for U.S. Space Command.”
- March 29, 2021, seven U.S. Senators, including U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, wrote to the Acting DoD Inspector General, Sean O’Donnell, to consider:
 - Why did the Department of Defense end the Strategic Basing Process in 2019 and subsequently create and use a new and untested process for the subsequent evaluation in 2020?
 - How did the Department of Defense establish the baseline building and command requirements for the 2020 process?
 - Did the Department of Defense consider each of the sites’ existing infrastructure in evaluating costs?
 - Did the Department of Defense data sets provide a consistent, objective, and fair representation of each site’s qualities and conditions?
- May 11, 2021, Senators Mark Warner (Virginia) and Michael Bennet (Colorado) wrote President Biden to “ensure IC equities are fully considered” regarding the “Trump administration’s decision to move United States Space Command from Colorado Springs, Colorado, to Huntsville, Alabama.”

O’Donnell offered a couple of “lessons learned.” First, O’Donnell described how large economic development efforts move “at the speed of trust” and emphasized the importance of relationships and trust building. Second, O’Donnell reiterated the importance of “writing for your audience.” O’Donnell credited Nikki Nader for sage advice in Air Force writing and staff work. Third, O’Donnell stated his view that “the ground game matters” and how the Support of Military Families assessment was part of the USSPACECOM HQ basing process. O’Donnell noted that there may be more work to be done to improve the Support of Military Families assessment for the Nebraska Air National Guard Base in Lincoln. O’Donnell acknowledged that the Support of Military Families assessment counted for 6 out of 100 points on the USSPACECOM HQ Evaluation Phase questionnaire. Fourth, O’Donnell described the communities’ understanding of the decision being based on (1) a strategic decision to not co-locate two Combatant Commands in the same location and (2) a workforce consideration specific to missile defense, intelligence community, and civilian space resources. O’Donnell also described what was believed to be part of Huntsville’s site enhancement package. Fifth, O’Donnell affirmed that the community did the best it could with the strongest cash enhancement.

O'Donnell turned the floor over to the 55th Wing Designee.

Nader confirmed that the environmental impact assessment started April 2021 and the 55th Wing provided its response at the end of May. Nader offered a lesson learned that one shouldn't assume that a higher headquarters is fully informed, utilizing cross government databases, and understands local nuances. Nader offered that one should presume that the audience is "starting from scratch". Therefore, overcommunicate and present all of the research and data for them.

O'Donnell turned the floor over to the USSTRATCOM Designee.

Stevenson acknowledged that USSTRATCOM is continuing to support USSPACECOM as they build up. Stevenson commended the community's effort for "playing offense" and competing for missions. Stevenson reiterated the importance of the recapitalization of the nuclear triad.

Bohac offered that the State and broader team has "elevated its game" especially as compared to the attempt to land the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) processing center. Bohac emphasized that there is a need to identify the gaps and seams for further lines of effort to strengthen Nebraska's position in the future.

Donovan offered how the decision to locate the Air Force Global Strike Command (in Louisiana) seemed to be politically based.

O'Donnell acknowledged and thanked Jeff Mikesell who was instrumental in the process.

Hilgert noted how this effort was in reaction to an offer to the Governors. Hilgert asked how can Nebraska place itself in a more anticipatory stance.

O'Donnell acknowledged that it is a great question and offered that continuing to share legislative successes with DoD may be part of the answer. O'Donnell offered that through the USSPACECOM HQ basing process the entire DoD and defense community is now more informed and aware of Offutt's presence.

Mikesell described how being "military friendly" is important and offered thoughts on the DFAS and other mission expansion efforts. Mikesell acknowledged the political nature of expanding missions. Mikesell highlighted the GAO and DoD IG investigations of the USSPACECOM HQ basing process.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Col Vilpors – 557th Weather Wing Designee

Vilpors noted the end of his tour at the 557th Weather Wing and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to participate. Vilpors saw value in the Commission and highlighted Nebraska's efforts to improve licensure reciprocity and reduce taxation on military retirement pay during his two short years.

Maj Gen Stevenson – U.S. Strategic Command Designee

Stevenson described the relatively senior personnel who separated from USSTRATCOM and

noted consistent factors such as high-quality education and spouse employment in the decision to stay in Nebraska. Stevenson offered that now is the time to assess legacy systems such as the KC-135 and RC-135 and their potential replacement.

Mrs. Nikki Nader – 55th Wing Designee

Nader thanked the Commission for its work and for the support the 55th Wing receives from the State of Nebraska. Nader described how the 55th Wing encourages personnel to attend TAP multiple times 2-3 years prior to separation. Nader acknowledged the potential for the State to brief the “Right Start” program participants. Nader described the status of the return to in-person TAP which is preferred to virtual TAP. Nader described the opportunity to have a “Nebraska booth” at future in-person job fairs. Regarding mission expansion, Nader described the recent success of Boeing’s refueling drone and how that may quickly reshape the landscape of tanker bases in the future.

O’Donnell congratulated the 55th Wing for its performance during a recent Total Force Integration assessment.

Mike Navrkal – State Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Navrkal described how Nebraska continues to have great employer support for its Guard and Reserve members. A number of Nebraska employers have been recognized nationally for their excellent support.

Joshua Whited – Nebraska Department of Labor

Whited shared his background with the Nebraska Department of Labor and noted Nebraska’s very low veteran unemployment rate. Whited described the role of Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Programs (DVOPs). Whited noted that one of NDOL’s LVERs briefed TAP attendees prior to COVID and would brief TAP attendees once in-person TAP resumed. Whited described the role of the National Veterans’ Training Institute and the State of Nebraska’s participation in the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

Dan Donovan – 2nd Congressional District

Donovan offered that a potential state veteran benefit to consider would be a twenty-five-dollar discount on Department of Motor Vehicle fees.

Maj Gen Bohac – Adjutant General Nebraska National Guard

Excused.

Tami Thompson – 1st Congressional District

Thompson thanked Herian for generating the research proposal and noted that she looks forward to the final report. Thompson also thanked O’Donnell for the USSPACECOM briefing and noted how the lessons learned will shape how Nebraska positions itself in the future.

Dave Bloomfield – 3rd Congressional District

Bloomfield emphasized that Nebraska does need to do something for all of Nebraska's veterans. Bloomfield described the dedication of Highway 20 as the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway in South Sioux City. Bloomfield noted the passage of LB261 which provides for suitable and appropriate grave markers for members of the Nebraska National Guard.

John Hilgert – Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Hilgert described how the County Veterans Service Officers are responsible for the grave markers and agreed to look into the law in more detail.

Schmidt offered her thoughts regarding County Veterans Service Officers' ability to use technology and asked if there was a way to improve their training and continuing education.

Dupell offered that the County Veterans Service Officers should work for the State of Nebraska. Dupell offered that the best thing Nebraska can do for young veterans is to offer them meaningful jobs.

A member of the public asked Commissioner Hilgert how it works with County Service Officers in rural counties.

Hilgert noted that he does not hire, fire, task, discipline, supervise, or fund County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs). Hilgert described the relationship between the role of the Counties and the role of the State. Hilgert noted that the Counties and the State are partners with a shared mission of serving Nebraska's veterans. Hilgert noted that the State does provide training regarding State specific programs to the County Veterans Service Officers. Hilgert described how the Counties are not standardized across the State in terms of budgets and training. Hilgert offered that there is a culture of local control.

Bloomfield offered that a veteran should go to another county if they are having issues with their CVSO.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN – Action/Vote

O'Donnell thanked Charlene Sheltraw, Kelly Ostrander, Adam McFarland, Levi Bennett, and Tamra Walz for their support to the Commission.

O'Donnell recognized John Hilgert and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs for its support of his Navy Reserve service.

Moved by Bloomfield and seconded by Hilgert to adjourn. Voting Aye: Hilgert, Thompson, Donovan, Bloomfield. Motion carried. Adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

¹ Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, *Department of the Air Force selects six candidate locations for U.S. Space Command Headquarters*. (November 19, 2020). Available: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2421819/department-of-the-air-force-selects-six-candidate-locations-for-us-space-comman/>

² Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, *SecAF selects Huntsville, Alabama as preferred location to host USSPACECOM*. (January 13, 2021). Available: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2471163/secaf-selects-huntsville-alabama-as-preferred-location-to-host-usspacecom/>