

# Nebraska Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs

301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95083, Lincoln, NE 68509

November 15, 2017

The Honorable Governor Pete Ricketts  
State Capitol, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor N.E.  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell  
Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 2018  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Governor Ricketts and Mr. O'Donnell:

Please accept this report pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 55-606.

The Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs (Commission) was created in 2016 by LB 754 with an effective date of July 21, 2016. Rita Sanders and Bill Williams were appointed to serve as Commissioners from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional Districts on December 15, 2016. David Bloomfield was appointed to serve as the Commissioner from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District on January 5, 2017. Phil O'Donnell was hired as the first Military Affairs Liaison for the Commission on January 30, 2017.

In 2017, the Commission joined the Association of Defense Communities and held its first meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>. During this meeting the Commission voted to contract with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research to assess the economic impact of military assets in Nebraska. Additionally, the Commission reviewed recommendations from the 2008 BRAC Task Force; a task force established by the Nebraska Legislature under the authority of LR 296. The recommendations from the 2008 BRAC Task Force Report that are still valid serve as the Commission's "recommendations for preserving and sustaining military assets and missions existing in Nebraska" and serve as the Commission's "recommendations for actions which the state can take to encourage expanding such assets and missions" pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 55-606. On November 13, 2017 the Commission voted to amend and submit this report.

Questions may be directed to Phil O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison, at (402)-471-4546.

Sincerely,



John Hilgert

Chair, Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs

