

MINUTES
STATE OF NEBRASKA
COMMISSION ON MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS
301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95083, Lincoln, NE 68509-5083

Friday, April 13th, 2018 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tour of Nebraska National Guard Facilities

The Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs met on April 13th, 2018 at 08:30 a.m. in the Nebraska National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Building, 2433 NW 24th St, Lincoln, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions for special meetings in *Neb. Rev. Stat. §55-603*.

In compliance with the provisions of *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411*, printed notice of this meeting was posted at the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs. In addition the notice was published in the Omaha World Herald on page 8C on April 6, 2018, and posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar (nebraska.gov) on March 22, 2018.

Commissioners present:

Dave Rippe, Director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Major General Daryl Bohac, Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard
John Hilgert, Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
Rita Sanders, 1st Congressional District
Dave Bloomfield, 3rd Congressional District

Excused Commissioners:

Bill Williams, 2nd Congressional District
Paul Cohen, Chair of the State Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
Colonel J. David Norton, 55th Wing Designee and 557th Weather Wing Designee
Major General Richard Evans, U.S. Strategic Command Designee

Other participants:

Phil O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison, Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs
Capt Doug Carlson, Government Relations Officer, Nebraska National Guard
Dr. Mitch Herian, Research Associate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research

Five of six voting members of the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs constituted a quorum of the Commission. Tour participants received an update briefing from Maj Gen Bohac regarding the structure, locations, facilities and operational capabilities of the Nebraska National Guard. This briefing included an assessment of readiness centers across the State and of the Bellevue (Offutt) Readiness Center in particular. Participants traveled via one UH-72A Lakota helicopter and one UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to aerially observe the Nebraska National Guard

Best Warrior competition at the Greenlief Training Site near Hastings Nebraska. Of note, three service members from the Czech Republic Armed Forces competed in this event. Participants received a briefing and a tour from leaders at the Grand Island Readiness Center and Army Aviation Facility Two. The tour continued with a flyover of the Mead Training Site prior to returning to Lincoln.

Hilgert noted that there was no difference in the training, standards, or proficiency between National Guard service members and active duty service members. Given the level of integration today, Hilgert noted that veterans' benefits may need to be similarly integrated with the elimination of legacy seams between benefits for National Guard service as compared to active duty service.

The tour ended at the Nebraska National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Building, 2433 NW 24th St, Lincoln, NE 68524 on Friday, April 13th around 2:00 p.m.

The aim of these minutes is to comply with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, specifically *Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1413*. Questions may be directed to Mr. Phillip O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison, Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs: (402) 471-2458