

THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

On September 18, 2015, Governor McCrory signed into law S.L. 2015-241, which established the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) as an executive agency. Prior to the creation of DMVA, the department's duties had been split among several state agencies, with a Veterans Affairs Division housed in the Department of Administration and a Military Affairs Commission operating under the Department of Commerce.

North Carolina's military and veteran communities are vital to the economic and social fabric of our state. This is why Governor McCrory has prioritized making North Carolina the most military friendly state in the country. As a consolidated agency with an elevated voice, DMVA is better positioned to build on recent initiatives led by the Governor, which include: providing in-state tuition for veterans, establishing veterans treatment courts, creating a veterans driver's licenses, and allowing military trained professionals and their spouses to use past experience and training to obtain credit toward certain North Carolina occupational licenses and professional certifications.

S.L. 2015-241 tasked DMVA with 23 specific functions that involve working with federal, state, local, regional and industry partners to support activities at North Carolina military installations, and improve economic outcomes and the quality of life for our military and veteran communities. DMVA is committed to preserving and expanding North Carolina's vibrant and diverse military presence, and assisting military families and veterans access the support and services they need to thrive.

DMVA's leadership includes Secretary Cornell A. Wilson, Jr., Major General, USMC Retired, who previously served as Military Advisor for Governor McCrory; and Assistant Secretary Ilario Pantano, a former Marine Sniper. Mr. Pantano previously served as Director of the NC Division of Veterans Affairs.

DMVA at a Glance

DMVA supports the needs of our active duty military personnel, military retirees, veterans and their families. Housing the fourth largest military population in the U.S., North Carolina is home to nearly 135,000 Active, Guard and Reserve personnel. In 2014, the population of veterans in North Carolina was 775,000, which is the 8th largest veteran population in the U.S.

DMVA supports a range of services for veterans by leveraging existing capabilities across federal, state and local agencies by making resources and services more easily accessible to veterans and delivering them more efficiently. NC4Vets.com is an innovative initiative that links veterans with a network of public, private and non-profit resources for employment, healthcare, VA benefits, housing, personal services, and education opportunities. DMVA also provides a free service to help veterans file for benefits. Veterans may visit DMVA HQ at the Seaboard Building in Raleigh to get assistance or meet with County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO), which are located throughout the state.

DMVA manages and maintains 4 State veterans nursing homes in Fayetteville, Salisbury, Kinston and Black Mountain; 4 State veteran cemeteries in Fayetteville, Jacksonville, Black Mountain and Goldsboro; and the State's Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans.

DMVA promotes economic development within the defense sector. According to the most recent economic impact data, military-related activities in North Carolina account for \$66 billion in gross domestic product for the state, which equates to about 10-11% of all economic activity in the state each year. Military-related sectors provide 578,000 jobs in North Carolina (119,000 federal; 72,087 state and local government; and 386,475 private sector). Additionally, there are 87,000 veteran owned businesses in North Carolina.

DMVA helps ensure that North Carolina's seven military installations, the National Guard and Reserve Components, and the Coast Guard can effectively meet their readiness, training, base sustainability and community affairs objectives. Major installations include:

- **Fort Bragg**, Fayetteville (48,000 military and 9,500 civilian personnel)
- **Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base**, Jacksonville (33,000 military and 3,500 civilian personnel)
- **Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and Naval Air Depot**, Havelock (7,500 military and 1,500 civilian)
- **New River Marine Corps Air Station**, Jacksonville (5,500 military and 160 civilian personnel)
- **Seymour Johnson Air Force Base**, Goldsboro (4,100 military and 700 civilian personnel)
- **Sunny Point Ocean Terminal**, Southport (200 personnel)
- **U.S. Coast Guard Base**, Elizabeth City (1400 personnel)