

## **Presentation to NM Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee – Interim July 15, 2025**

### **By the NM Office of Military Base Planning and Support**

The mission of the Office of Military Base Planning and Support (OMBPS) is to keep the governor informed regarding issues impacting the military bases in the State; to support the Military Base Planning Commission; and to serve as a liaison with community organizations. Additionally, the office works closely with the staff of the state's congressional delegation.

The mission of the New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission (MBPC), as modified in statute this year is to advise the governor on measures necessary to ensure the continued presence of military bases in the state. Specifically, the Commission evaluates the federal government's plans related to assigned base missions, provides assistance to established community organizations that support the long-term viability of the military bases in their local area, and works with the state's congressional delegation.

The Commission is now authorized to develop a grant program to provide assistance for infrastructure projects in the state's defense communities that promote military mission expansion, retention and recruitment. In the event of loss of military mission or base closure, the grant may be used to stimulate the private or public sector development. The grant will be administered by the Office, with administrative support from the Economic Development Department.

New Mexico, through the leadership of the Governor and in partnership with state legislators, the Commission and the Office have had much success in supporting each of the state's military installations.

### **Commissioners**

**State of NM:** Lt Governor - Howie Morales (Commission Chair)

**Kirtland AFB/Albuquerque:** Paul Cassidy, Sherman McCorkle, and Samantha Sengel

**Cannon AFB/Clovis:** James Burns and Raymond Mondragon

**Holloman AFB/Alamogordo:** Ed Brabson and Nadia Sikes

**White Sands Missile Range/Las Cruces:** Eric Sanchez and Debbie Moore

**At Large:** Jennifer Weller and Carlos Rey Romero

**OMBPS:** Executive Director, Colonel (ret) Megan Cornett

Part-time employee: 1            Contractor: 1

**Budget (In the thousands)**

<b>FY26 Operating Budget</b>				
Office of Military Base Planning and Support				
FUND BREAKDOWN				
<b>FY26</b>	<b>federal</b>	<b>74800 GF</b>	<b>01140 MBI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
fed	-	-	-	-
fund	-	415,200.00	-	415,200.00
<b>total</b>	-	<b>415,200.00</b>	-	<b>415,200.00</b>
<b>CAT</b>	<b>federal</b>	<b>74800 GF</b>	<b>01140 MBI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
200	-	205,600.00	-	205,600.00
300	-	179,200.00	-	179,200.00
400	-	30,400.00	-	30,400.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>415,200.00</b>
<b>FY</b>	<b>26</b>			
<b>BUDREF</b>	<b>126</b>			
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>J0000</b>			

**Updates from the OMBPS and Commission:**

This year, the Office initiated, with Commission approval, several actions to address areas of concern regarding the operations of both the Office and Commission. These actions will also posture the Office to administer grants from the Military Base Impact Fund established in the 2025 legislative session. Specific efforts include active stakeholder engagement, establishing a public website and outreach strategy, and adopting appropriate Open Meetings Act and budget execution practices. The Commission will engage in several work sessions to create a strategic planning document to guide their activities in the future.

In coordination with energy development and Department of Defense stakeholders, the Office completed implementing policy guidance for House Bill 159, now NMSA 1978, Sec 9-15-49.1, and the Commission approved to policy in their July 8, 2025 meeting.

Lastly, in the upcoming days the Office will release a request for proposals to obtain legal services for the rulemaking actions necessary to implement and administer the Military Base Impact Fund. Department of Finance and Administration actions to establish the fund are complete.

## Attachment 1: MBPC Priorities for 2026 Legislative Session

1. **Appropriation for Military Base Impact Fund [\$12M, non-reverting]:** New Mexico established the Military Impact Fund via HB158 in 2025 to support infrastructure projects near military bases. Any money in the fund will be appropriated to the Office of Military Base Planning and Support and the Economic Development Department will assist with administering the funds.

The fund provides assistance to infrastructure projects in defense communities or regional planning organizations within a defined distance of a military base and grants may be made for construction, restoration / modernization, planning and design, or purchase of land and facilities. The purpose of the fund is to address military readiness needs in the local community that impact Department of Defense decisions regarding mission expansion and retention of current missions at the state's military installations. The fund may also be used to stimulate the development or recruitment of private or public sector employers due to closure or reduction of a military base. Grants made from the fund shall be no greater than the lesser of 90% of the total cost of the project or 90% of a matching requirement from a federal or other nonstate funding source.

**Status:** As of July 8, 2025, the Military Base Planning Commission has approved the funding for legal services to assist with the rulemaking process and the Request for Proposals will be released before the end of the month. The Commission expects to complete rulemaking by the end of the calendar year.

***This is a budget priority. Special appropriation request to be filed.***

2. **Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction:** On military installations subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction often handle juvenile offenses through the federal system, which does not have an established juvenile justice system. New Mexico can adopt policies that facilitate concurrent jurisdiction between state and military installations to ensure access to the state's juvenile justice system and resources. This access offers military families improved opportunities for rehabilitation tailored to address juveniles. **DOD recommends language drafted in 2024.**

Enacting this legislation is not expected to add many cases to state/local agencies.

***This is a crime policy priority and a top policy priority for DoD for NM to pursue. Commission pursuing Governor's call.***

3. **State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence:** While the Department of Defense has led the implementation of enterprise-wide guidance on prevention, states can address harmful behaviors, such as sexual assault and domestic violence, by expanding protections for victims and enacting state policy best practices can supplement federal program efforts and changes. ***Introduced in 2025 as SB 373 by Sen Sedillo-Lopez with language endorsed by DoD.***

Enacting this legislation codifies in state statute locally agreed upon procedures largely in effect in defense communities but might not be standardized.

***This is a crime policy priority and a top policy priority for DoD for NM to pursue. Commission pursuing Governor's call.***

4. **Child Abuse Identification and Reporting:** Federal law requires the Department of Defense to request state reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. States can assist military Family Advocacy Programs in providing needed support by requiring child protective services to report cases to the military at the onset of their investigations. ***Introduced in 2025 as SB 373 by Sen Sedillo-Lopez with language endorsed by DoD.***

Enacting this legislation codifies in state statute locally agreed upon procedures largely in effect in defense communities but might not be standardized.

***This is a crime policy priority and a top policy priority for DoD for NM to pursue. Commission pursuing Governor's call.***

5. **Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts:** Thirty-five percent of military spouses require an occupational license to work in their chosen profession. Licensure compacts create seamless licensure portability for all members of a profession, including military spouses and service members. By adopting licensure compacts, states can not only improve military family financial readiness but also recruit candidates to provide these services to New Mexico's residents.

**Note:** The Council of Governments have advised that states cannot enter interstate compacts through executive order; they must be enacted in statute with language acceptable by member states.

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

- Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
- Cosmetology Licensure Compact
- Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact
- Dietitian Licensure Compact
- Emergency Medical Services Licensure Compact
- Interstate Massage Therapy Compact
- Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
- Licensed Professional Counseling Compact
- Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
- Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
- Physician Associates Compact
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- Social Work Licensure Compact
- Interstate Compact for School Psychologists

***This is a top policy priority for the Chair of the Military Base Planning Commission. Commission pursuing Governor's call for some or all compacts.***

**Attachment 2: Other MBPC Policy Priority for 2026 (Non-Legislative)**

**State Support to Military Families with Special Education Needs:** New Mexico statute is sufficient to support the special education needs of highly mobile military-connected children. Department of Defense military family policy experts recommend that the NM Public Education Department simply needs to amend existing administrative rules to assist military families ensure the timely establishment of special education services upon relocation to the state.

***This is an education policy priority for the DoD that requires an administrative rule amendment only, (not legislative action).***

### Attachment 3: MBPC Priorities for 2027 Legislative Session

- **Open Enrollment Flexibility Expansion:** New Mexico has assisted military families by increasing military-connected students' access to public schooling options, affording them the option to remain in their current school placement despite a relocation from temporary to permanent housing and including them within existing enrollment prioritization systems. The state can expand open enrollment flexibility by including charter schools in existing statute.
- **State Certification Exemption for DoD Family Child Care Homes:** In many cases, in-home childcare providers who live off a military installation must be licensed by both the state and the Defense Department, even when only caring for eligible DoD-affiliated children. By exempting in-home childcare providers certified by the DOD from state licensure requirements, states can improve access to family childcare for military families.
- **Education Policy Information and Implementation Enhancements:** Military families have reported a lack of local-level awareness and information on existing education related policies enacted by states to support their children in schools. States can make enhancements to facilitate effective implementation of these policies and ensure that information on these policies is easily accessible on state and local education websites.
- **Military Exigency Clause in Family Leave:** Military families face situations that occur nowhere else in civilian employment: sudden deployment orders, combat injuries requiring long-term care, pre-deployment legal preparations, and reintegration challenges. States that include military exigency clauses in their family leave frameworks recognize these unique operational demands and enable military spouses to support their service members without sacrificing income or employment security. States can ensure family leave laws include provisions for military-specific needs like deployments, training, and transitions. This enables readiness by reducing family stress during critical mission periods. States can also expand traditional family definitions to reflect the realities of military service, including extended deployment separations and non-traditional family support networks.
- **Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts:** Membership in interstate licensure compacts will remain a priority for the Commission as these compacts promote military spouse employment opportunities and stabilize incomes for highly mobile military families.

## Attachment 4: New Mexico Military Bases

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the state of New Mexico received **\$4.6 billion** in Defense spending, which provides direct funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DOD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investments, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The military installations in New Mexico contribute to more than **52,000 jobs**, **\$2.8 billion** in annual labor income and **\$14 billion** in industrial output.

### **Cannon Air Force Base**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing (SOW) is one of five active wings within Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). The primary mission of the wing is to plan and execute specialized and contingency operations using advanced aircraft, tactics, and air refueling techniques to infiltrate, extract, and resupply special operations forces and provide intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and close air support of special operations forces. Aircraft assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> SOW include the following: MQ-9 Reaper; MC-130J Command II; AC-130W Stinger II; CV-22 Osprey; and the U-28A. Cannon AFB is slated to receive the OA-1K Sky Raider II in the upcoming years.

One of Cannon's most important assets is the Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR), located about 25 miles west of the base. In 2011, the State of New Mexico provided an additional 11,000-acre addition (for a total of more than 70,000 acres) and a 74-year lease with the New Mexico State Land Office. MAFR is AFSOC's only range, and it is available for training various special operations forces as well as testing new capabilities.

### **Holloman AFB**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Wing is the host unit on Holloman which provides combat-ready F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots and MQ-9 Reaper pilots and sensor operators. Additionally, the Wing provides Air Transportable Clinics and Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources in support of DOD contingencies and is designated a staging location for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Holloman hosts the 704<sup>th</sup> Test Group whose mission is to operate world class test facilities for high-speed sled track testing, navigation and guidance system testing, radar signature measurements, weapon systems flight testing, as well as providing Air Force Liaison responsibilities for all Air Force programs at White Sands Missile Range.

### **Kirtland AFB**

Kirtland AFB is one of the most diverse installations in the Air Force, hosting units from four Air Force Major Commands, the US Space Force, as well as supporting Air Force Special Operations Command. The host unit on Kirtland is the 377<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing which provides support to all 108 mission partners. The major units on Kirtland are the following: Air Force Research Laboratory (two Directorates—Space Vehicles and Directed Energy); Space Rapid Capabilities Office; Innovation and Prototyping Directorate; and Distributed Mission Operations Center (DMOC).



Kirtland also hosts the 58<sup>th</sup> SOW, whose aircraft include MC/HC-130J, AC-130J, MH-60, and UH-1N. The wing provides initial qualification training to Special Operations and Combat Rescue aircrews and the 150<sup>th</sup> SOW (NM Air National Guard, associated with the 58<sup>th</sup> SOW.)

A key unit on Kirtland is the 351<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Squadron (Pararescue School). Kirtland also supports the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center; Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center; Air Force Safety Center; and Air Force Inspection Agency. Key National Nuclear Security Administration activities on Kirtland include Sandia National Laboratories, National Training Center, and Office of Secure Transportation.

### **White Sands Missile Range**

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is the Army's premier overland test range which provides long-range missile and laboratory testing for air defense, smart weapons, fire support, nuclear effects, air-to-surface, air-to-air, and space. WSMR consists of approximately 40 x 100 miles of restricted airspace; additional areas (about 2,400 square miles) are available for temporary "call-up," depending on test requirements. WSMR also hosts the Center for Countermeasures (Office of the Secretary of Defense) and the United States Army Training and Doctrine Analysis Center, which develops, maintains, verifies, validates, and exports a wide variety of combat models and simulations. WSMR supports Holloman, Cannon, and Kirtland mission activities.

**New Mexico encompasses 89% of Ft. Bliss.**