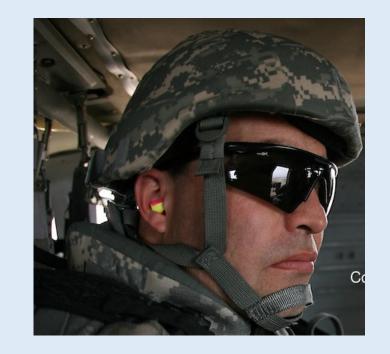
# New Mexico Legislature's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee Presentation on New Mexico Veteran Transition

Services

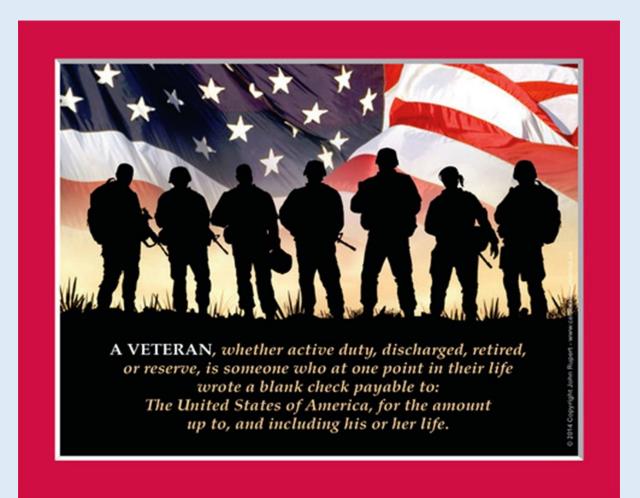
Lt Colonel (R) Rudy C De Baca

August 1, 2019.



#### Overview

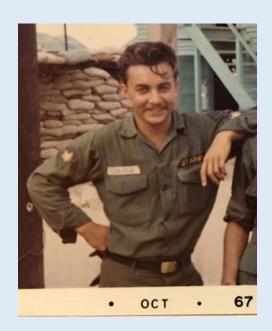
- Introduction
- Background
- Issues
- Objective
- Call to Action
- Fact Finding/Data Gathering Option
- Potential Solutions Option
- Questions?



#### Introduction

- Personal Backstory
- Why I got involved as a VRC
- How issues were encountered











# Background



















#### Objectives

- Ascertain the issues with Veteran and Dependent (V&D)
  Services and Support.
- Discuss potential opportunities for improvement that can be identified in Legislation for the 2020 Legislative Session.

#### Call to Action

- Two possible courses of action to work from
  - 1. Fact finding and Data Gathering OR,
  - 2. Consider possible solutions exclusive of this

# Fact Finding/Data Gathering Option

- Gather data on number of Veterans and Dependents receiving: 1. VA benefits, 2. State benefits.
- Identify all VA, State, Veterans Service Organizations.
- Identify all the Veterans Service Officers/ Representatives/Resource Centers/etc.

# Fact Finding/Data Gathering Option (cont.)

- Request mission statements/expectations for each organization.
- Identify the following specifically of VA, State, and VSOs.
  - 1. How many V&D they support monthly and annually?
  - 2. How many V&D are waitlisted for support?
  - 3. Explain their process, i.e. Veterans disability claim consistency.
  - 4. What is the process time for each V&D benefit, i.e. "how long does it take to process a Veteran's disability claim from the moment they the initial intake is started until the moment when a Veteran receives approval or disapproval.
  - 5. How many V&D are 1. Approved, 2. Disapproved (with reasons).

#### Potential Solutions Option

- Fund and resource more State Veterans Service Officers.
  - Look at funding a VSO at every American Legion, VFW, DAV post and Veterans Resource Center in the state; this enables each post to become "force multipliers" for the state and begin the process for submission of V&D claims.
  - Institutionalize a state process for conduct, formality, and continuity.

## Potential Solutions Option (cont.)

2. Codify a reasonable time table for claims process.

For example: all claims will be submitted and approved within a year.

# Potential Solutions Options (cont.)

3. Approve an automatic temporary Post Traumatic Stress disability percentage for NM Veterans who demonstrate they were in a combat zone; this will enable these Veterans to receive immediate mental and medical support until a permanent disability claim is finalized.

# Potential Solutions Options (cont.)

 Approve an automatic temporary Military Sexual Trauma disability percentage for NM Veterans who claim they were assaulted.

This will enable these Veterans to receive immediate mental and medical support until a permanent disability claim is finalized.

## Potential Solutions Option (cont.)

Look at establishing a Veterans Center of Excellence.
 This will be a campus where Veterans can go for retreats, training, counseling, recreation, etc.

## Potential Solutions Option (cont.)

 Permanently fund the State's Veterans Resource Centers: UNM, NMSU, ENMU, WNMU, CNM, NNMC, UNM-T, UNM-LA, etc.

# Questions?