

Revised: August 12, 2026

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
THIRD MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**August 14, 2026
Fort Bayard Medical Center
41 Fort Bayard Road
Santa Clara**

Friday, August 14

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
 —Senator Harold Pope, Chair
 —Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Update on New Mexico Veterans' Homes**
 —Gina DeBlassie, Secretary, Department of Health
 —Kenneth Shull, Executive Administrator of Long Term Care, New
 Mexico State Veterans' Home
- 9:30 a.m. **Tour of the Fort Bayard Medical Center Complex***
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **Western New Mexico University (WNMU) Update**
 —Jose Coll, Ph.D., President, WNMU
 —Sylvia Sierra, Veterans' Affairs Manager and School Certifying Official,
 WNMU
- 10:15 a.m. (3) **Local Veterans' Organizations**
 —Charles LeBlanc, Commandant, Gaffney-Oglesby Detachment 1328,
 Marine Corps League Department of New Mexico
 —Richard Macklin, Coordinator, Elephant Butte New Mexico Chapter,
 Heroes on the Water
 —John Tedford, Interim Department Commander, Disabled American
 Veterans Department of New Mexico
 —Joe Drake, Vice Commander, Area 1, Department of New Mexico,
 American Legion
- 10:40 a.m. (4) **Local Veterans' Service Providers**
 —Mike Lopez, Founder and Organizer, Walk for Heroes
 —Tim Zamora, Trustee, Grant County Veterans Coalition
 —Yolanda Amador, Member, Chapter 358, Vietnam Veterans of America
 —Billy Mize, Owner, Indian Springs Ranch
- 11:00 a.m. **Lunch**

- 11:30 a.m. (5) **Fort Bayard Redevelopment**
—Sheila Hudman, Administrator, Village of Santa Clara
—Priscilla Lucero, Director, Southwest New Mexico Council of
Governments
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment****
- 12:15 p.m. **Tour of the Fort Bayard National Cemetery***
- 2:30 p.m. **Tour of New Mexico State Veterans' Home***
- 3:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Committee members and committee staff only.

**Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee [web page](#).

If you have a disability and require assistance accessing a meeting, please [click here to request an accommodation](#). You may also call Robin Garrison at (505) 986-4685 or email ada.assist@nmlegis.gov. Please help us prepare your accommodation by submitting your request at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Requests made with less than a 24-hour notice cannot be guaranteed.