

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**August 13, 2025
New Mexico State University
Golf Course
3000 Herb Wimberly Drive
Las Cruces**

The third meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Senator Harold Pope, chair, on August 13, 2025 at 9:34 a.m. at the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Golf Course in Las Cruces.

Present

Sen. Harold Pope, Chair
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Art De La Cruz
Sen. Nicholas A. Paul
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Absent

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Advisory Members

Rep. Angelita Mejia
Sen. Gabriel Ramos

Sen. Pat Boone
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Catherine J. Cullen
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Andrea Reeb

Staff

Erin Bond, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the

"Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, August 13

Welcome and Introductions (9:34 a.m.)

Senator Pope called the meeting to order and asked committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

NMSU Military and Veterans Programs (MVP) Updates (9:40 a.m.)

Hector Sanchez, director of MVP, NMSU, presented on the various MVP offices throughout southern New Mexico and the MVP's mission. He discussed the support that the programs provide to veteran and active-duty military students at NMSU. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/13/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Holloman Air Force Base Mission Briefing (10:22 a.m.)

Colonel John Stripling, deputy commander, 49th Wing, Holloman Air Force Base, and Shelley M. Bailey, chief, Community Engagement, 49th Wing Public Affairs, Holloman Air Force Base, presented on the history and recent activities of the 49th Wing at the base. They discussed the base's education, training and research programs and noted challenges the wing is working to address. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/13/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (11:00 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded and with one change, the committee adopted the minutes of the July 15, 2025 meeting.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) (11:02 a.m.)

Nicole Martinez, executive director, MVCH/Abode, Inc., presented on the MVCH's outreach and support programs for unhoused individuals, including veterans. She discussed veteran-specific services the MVCH provides and noted the importance of state funds to support those services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/13/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Public Comment (11:46 a.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

New Mexico State Veterans' Home Discussion (1:04 p.m.)

Andrea Trujillo, marketing and admissions director, New Mexico State Veterans' Home, Department of Health (DOH), and Kenneth Shull, administrator, New Mexico State Veterans' Home, DOH, gave an overview of the New Mexico State Veterans' Home's facilities and goals. They discussed the demographics of the veterans the home serves and the resources and services provided to residents. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/13/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Update (1:39 p.m.)

Colonel Donyeill A. Mozer, garrison commander, WSMR, presented on the history and current operations of the WSMR. He noted the number and variety of tests the WSMR conducts and discussed efforts to improve housing and education on the installation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/13/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.