

**2012 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Members

Rep. Thomas A. Garcia, Co-Chair
Sen. David Ulibarri, Co-Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Dianne Miller Hamilton

Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. John Pinto
Rep. Bob Wooley

Advisory Members

Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. William F. Burt
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. George Dodge, Jr.
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Sen. Eric G. Griego

Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.
Sen. Timothy M. Keller
Rep. Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Edward C. Sandoval

Work Plan

The Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was first created by statute for the 2009 interim session. The committee was permanently reauthorized by statute during the 2010 regular session. The committee was given various statutory duties, including making an annual report and recommending any necessary legislation to the next session of the legislature, and requesting necessary action to Congress, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense. The committee is required to conduct meetings in several geographically dispersed areas of the state and conduct hearings relating to military issues and veterans' issues. The committee will coordinate, as needed, with other committees regarding presentations of subject matter of common concern.

During the 2012 interim, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee proposes to explore and discuss the topics in each major issue area affecting veterans and service members as follows:

1. higher education opportunities and programs offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges;
2. family support centers and other community support for military families and veterans;
3. the integration of veterans and returning military personnel into civilian life;
4. health care delivery systems for military personnel and veterans, including access to care in rural areas and via telemedicine options;

5. suicide prevention and support for military personnel, veterans and their families;
6. support for veterans and military personnel with posttraumatic stress disorder, including alternative treatment options, community programs, state and federal partnerships and status of the law enforcement training program for proper interaction with persons with mental impairments;
7. the status of long-term care options in the state for aging veterans;
8. the status of cemetery space for veterans throughout the state;
9. housing issues facing military personnel and veterans, including programs for affordable housing, foreclosure assistance and homeless veterans;
10. quality-of-life issues for military personnel, including child custody issues, honoring licensing and professional credentialing requirements from other states and educational credit for military education, training and experience;
11. the implementation of the veterans' preference on state contracts, pursuant to HB 97 (2012);
12. state benefits for retired military personnel, including exempting military retirement or retainer pay from state income tax;
13. status and impact of the Veterans Treatment Court, requested pursuant to SM 74 (2009);
14. the deployment and mission of the New Mexico National Guard at the state and federal levels;
15. comprehensive updates from military installations in the state, including squadron transitions, growth expectations and issues facing military personnel on base; and
16. an update on the jet fuel spill at Kirtland Air Force Base, including its impact on water quality and remediation efforts.

**Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
2012 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 22	Santa Fe
July 9	Clovis
August 22	Silver City
October 3	Española
November 20	Santa Fe