

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

**June 16, 2021  
Video Conference Meeting**

The first meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) was called to order by Senator Harold Pope, co-chair, on June 16, 2021 at 1:02 p.m. by video conference via an online platform.

**Present**

Sen. Harold Pope, Co-Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

**Absent**

Rep. Harry Garcia, Co-Chair

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Rachel A. Black  
Sen. William F. Burt  
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

Rep. Randal S. Crowder  
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

**Staff**

Jeret Fleetwood, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is 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](http://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, June 16**

### **Welcome and Introductions (1:07 p.m.)**

Senator Pope opened the meeting by extending a welcome to the committee members, staff and presenters. He asked all committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

### **Veterans' Services Department (VSD) Update**

Sonya Smith, secretary, VSD, introduced Bryan Osterhage, deputy secretary, VSD; Jemia Warner, director, Healthcare Division, VSD; Edward L. Mendez, director, Benefits and Services, VSD; and Robin Wilson, manager, Women Veterans Program, VSD. Secretary Smith gave committee members a brief presentation on the transportation programs and provided agency updates, such as the COVID-19 vaccine response, the Women Veterans Program and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall located in Angel Fire. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20061621%20Item%201%20Veterans%20Services%20Department.pdf>.

### **Office of Military Base Planning and Support Update (2:15 p.m.)**

Greg Myers, director, Office of Military Base Planning and Support, Economic Development Department, gave a recap to and discussed future plans with committee members.

### **2021 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (2:31 p.m.)**

Mr. Fleetwood presented the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2021 interim of the MVAC. The work plan can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work\\_Plans/MVACworkplan21.pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work_Plans/MVACworkplan21.pdf).

On a motion duly made and seconded, the work plan and meeting schedule were approved.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.