

SUMMARY
Military/Veteran Leadership Council (MVLC)
General Meeting 3 December 2024
Cabela's @ 5151 Lang Ave NE, Albuquerque,
NM 87109

Reported by LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret) Albumoaa Leg Chair

1. Introductions:

- Two new members were introduced:

1SGT Emily Gallo Sanchez – newly elected President Enlisted Association NM National Guard. Mr Greg Seeley – Development Director for the NM Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC)

2. Legislative Team Activities 2024

MVLC Legislative presentation to the M&VAIC in Santa Rosa NM, 3 September 2024

1SGT Martin Gallegos (NMARNG Ret) provided information to the Military & Veterans Affairs Interim House and Senate Committee on the legislative initiatives of the MVLC for 2025 which included the below listed priorities.

3. Discussion of Legislative Activities for 2025

a. Discussed the legislative action that will be introduced during the 2025 legislative session will guide the implementation of CA1 and CA2 at the county and local level.

Discussed Information received from Ira Pearson from Tax and Revenue from the State of New Mexico who stated that the Legislature must generate language that would implement the constitutional amendments. The Governor can veto the language, but the amendments will go into effect regardless for tax year 2026. Ira also stated that the County Treasures concern about non- Veteran Taxes increasing should not be a concern since there is already provisions for offsetting any losses – which for most counties will be minimal. The Fiscal Impact generated by the Legislative Council shows only minimal impact to the counties.

b. Homeless Veterans Population in NM:

- MVLC will work with legislature to authorize funding of a memorial (\$250K) for a study by Universities and Colleges throughout NM to get an accurate statistic on homeless veterans and at-risk veterans. The current data is highly inaccurate. Current HUD data shows only 350 homeless vets in NM. Where VA data puts that at more than 700 – 900.

- We also discussed initiatives for Veteran mental health support/suicide prevention. This is closely linked to the Homeless issue. Greg Seeley (NM Veterans Integration Center) gave us some very useful input on their initiatives to determine the needs of homeless Veterans in NM.

c. Pursue legislation to provide tax relief to business who employ Guard and Reserve members of during deployment (RECRUIT ACT) – This is a NM National Guard legislative initiative. MVLC will work with the senate and house to initiate a bill that would provide tax relief to employers of Guard and Reserve. When Service members are deployed employers would be afforded tax credits or relief so employers can back-fill this position temporarily during the time Guard and Reserve are deployed or on state active duty or activated for a national emergency

d. We also discussed the realignment of the House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Two of our strongest supporters are no longer in the house:

Rep Harry Garcia and Rep Eliseo Alcon will not be at the 2025 legislative session

Rep Alan Martinez – will be one of our primary supporters in the House and Senators Pope, Burt

and Block will be our primary supporters in the Senate.

4. Open Discussion

- We are still requesting input from member organizations to let us know their legislative priorities.
- The next meeting will be an on-line Zoom meeting date and time TBD. 1SGT Gallegos will send Legislative ALERTS as he needs help from our member organizations.