This task force was created in 2007 to address issues affecting military-community relations and the health and well-being of veterans. Among the issues covered: development near military installations; military-community partnerships to respond to mission change; veteran hiring and procurement preferences; mental health, substance abuse and family relationships facing returning veterans; and benefits for military personnel, veterans and their dependents.

The task force consists of 54 state legislators and legislative staff from 29 states.

Co-Chairs:
Representative Dan Flynn, Texas
Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii

NCSL Staff:
Jim Reed, Group Director | Brooke Oleen Tieperman, Senior Policy Specialist | Jennifer Schultz, Policy Specialist
Jon Jukuri, Labor and Economic Development Committee Director

NCSL is grateful for the financial support provided to the NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force by the U.S. Department of Defense, Northrop Grumman Corporation and Dominion Resources.

### Agenda

**Monday, August 8, 2016**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>7 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
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<td>7:30–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tour: Northrop Grumman Corporation (Rolling Meadows, Ill.)&lt;br&gt;Task force members and invited guests will visit defense contractor Northrop Grumman's innovative facility in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. Current projects include Directional Infrared Countermeasures, systems that protect U.S. and allied aircraft from heat-seeking, shoulder-fired missiles, and LITENING - a targeting system used by the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Meet at Gate 43/44, near Room W183a on Prairie Ave. side</em>&lt;br&gt;Bus transportation is provided for task force members and invited guests, departing McCormack Place, Gate 43/44 at 7:45 a.m. sharp. Please arrive by 7:30 a.m. Contact Brooke Oleen at <a href="mailto:brooke.oleen@ncsl.org">brooke.oleen@ncsl.org</a> or (720) 393-9234 to confirm your attendance. Please bring a photo ID and comfortable shoes for walking.</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs Convenes&lt;br&gt;Welcome by Task Force Co-Chair: Representative Dan Flynn, Texas&lt;br&gt;Pledge of Allegiance&lt;br&gt;Recognition of Sponsors</td>
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| 11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | **Services for Veterans in the State of Illinois:**  
**Briefing from the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs**  
The task force will hear about services for veterans provided by our host state. Task force members will have the opportunity to ask questions after a presentation.  
*Speaker: Erica Jeffries, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs* |
| 12:15–1 p.m.   | **Suicide Prevention and the Role of the States**  
A July 2016 Veterans Administration study concluded that in 2014, 7,403 veterans took their own lives. This accounted for 18 percent of all suicides in America, while veterans make up less than 9 percent of the U.S. population. Burdened with mental health issues, post-traumatic stress, and addiction issues, too many military veterans consider and act upon suicidal thoughts as an option to the relief of their suffering. This session will identify effective suicide prevention initiatives and programs, both those operated by governments and those run by veterans.  
*Presiding: Rep. Martha Jane King, Kentucky*  
*Speakers:  
Rob Trigg, Jr., Founder, Formation 22  
Marine Nelson, SSVF Team Leader, Thresholds, Chicago, Illinois*  
*Task force members will discuss initiatives for veteran suicide prevention in their home states.* |
| 1 p.m.        | **Lunch Provided**  
*Please pick up your lunch and return to the meeting.* |
| 1:15–1:30 p.m. | **Update: Texas Military Department (TMD)**  
A former member of this task force will give an update on activities in Texas particularly relating to the role of the TMD in disaster relief, emergency missions and border issues.  
*Speaker: Bill Wilson, Executive Director, Texas Military Department* |
### 1:30–2:15 p.m. Helping our Military Vote

Since the Civil War, it’s been official policy to get ballots to and from those serving in the military. What’s the modern day equivalent of the Pony Express that ensures ballots are sent to overseas citizens at least 45 days before Election Day and returned in time to be counted? If that means using the Internet, what are the security concerns, and are there any work-arounds that are foolproof?


### 2:15–2:30 p.m. Task Force Legislative Updates and Wrap-Up

Task force members will provide brief updates on 2016 enacted legislation.

Task force moves to Room W184d.

### 2:45–4p.m. Workforce Development and Veterans Employment

**Room – W184d**

Joint session with the NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs and the Labor and Economic Development Committee

Returning members of the armed forces bring a wealth of skills, knowledge and leadership back home with them. As deployments continue to wind down, employers and veterans alike must learn to navigate this unique job market and extensive influx of talent. Come discuss best practices and learn how the right policies can benefit both our nation’s businesses and its finest heroes.

*Speakers:*

Michael Michaud, Assistant Secretary, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS), U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Darrell Roberts, Helmets to Hardhats, Washington D.C.

Brian Huseman, Vice President for Public Policy, Amazon, Washington, D.C.

### Additional Sessions of Interest:

#### Tuesday, August 9, 2016

**1:45–3 p.m. The Military, Your Community and the Economy**

Defense cuts and the threat of a future Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) have created a perfect storm of challenges—and economic opportunities—for states and local governments that host military installations. Hear from leaders on the front line and then work in small groups on innovative policies on land use, energy facility siting, preserving agricultural land and more.

**Location:** McCormick Place Room – W185a
Moderator: Tim Ford, Executive Director, Association of Defense Communities, Washington, D.C.

Speakers:
Jennifer L. Miller, SES Deputy Assistant Secretary (Installations), U.S. Department of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.
Tom Neubauer, Vice Chair, Florida Defense Support Task Force
Delegate Richard Anderson, Virginia

5:15–6:30 p.m. Room – W185a
State Disability Employment Policy Developments in 2016
This interactive session addresses state policy trends in disability employment in 2016. Hear about progress on the National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities, convened by NCSL and the Council of State Governments.

Speakers:
Kyle Ingram, NCSL Disability and Employment Policy Specialist, Colorado
Donna Smith, Easterseals Project ACTION, Washington D.C.
Kimberly Mercer, Transition Manager, Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services, Chicago Public Schools, Illinois

Thursday, August 11, 2016

9:30–10:30 a.m. Room – W183c
A Hero’s Best Friend: Regulating Service Animals
Taking advantage of a largely unregulated system, many people have purchased fake service animal certifications to allow their pets’ access to places they shouldn’t go. But many veterans and others rely on service dogs to cope with physical disabilities, PTSD and other injuries. See what states are doing to curb this problem and protect the individuals who truly need service animals.

Speakers:
David Favre, Nancy Heathcote Professor of Property and Animal Law, Michigan State College of Law
Heather Anderson, Fundraising Coordinator, War Dogs Making it Home, Illinois
A.J. Ferguson, veteran, and his service dog Kala, graduate from War Dogs Making it Home, Illinois

Next meeting: In conjunction with the NCSL Capitol Forum, December 5–9, 2016, in Washington, D.C.