

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

**June 17, 2024  
State Capitol, Room 307  
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Representative Harry Garcia, chair, on June 17, 2024 at 10:05 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Harry Garcia, Chair  
Sen. Harold Pope, Vice Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Art De La Cruz  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

**Absent**

Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

**Advisory Members**

Rep. John Block  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Rep. Alan T. Martinez  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Rep. Andrea Reeb  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Sen. William F. Burt  
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Harlan Vincent

**Guest Legislators**

Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Sen. Linda M. López

**Staff**

Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, 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](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.

## **Monday, June 17**

### **Welcome and Introductions (10:05 a.m.)**

Representative Garcia welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

### **New Mexico National Guard (10:08 a.m.)**

Major General Miguel Aguilar, adjutant general, New Mexico National Guard, and acting secretary, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, introduced staff of the Department of Military Affairs. He presented information on how the New Mexico National Guard recruits youth to join the National Guard through its Youth ChalleNGe Academy and discussed appropriation requests for fiscal year 2026. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=6/17/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

### **2024 Work Plan, Meeting Schedule and Itinerary (11:41 a.m.)**

Committee members discussed and made changes to the 2024 proposed interim work plan and meeting schedule. The approved work plan and meeting schedule can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work\\_Plans/MVACworkplan24.pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work_Plans/MVACworkplan24.pdf).

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.