

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

**June 8, 2023
State Capitol, Room 309
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Representative Harry Garcia, chair, on June 8, 2023 at 1:32 p.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Harry Garcia, Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Art De La Cruz
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Absent

Sen. Harold Pope, Vice Chair
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Advisory Members

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Harlan Vincent

Rep. John Block
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Michael Padilla

Staff

Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Researcher, 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, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for the agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, June 8

Welcome and Introductions (1:32 p.m.)

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

Veterans' Services Department (VSD) Update (1:37 p.m.)

Donnie Quintana, secretary, VSD, gave updates on changes that have occurred at the VSD within the last six months. He said that since November 2022, the department has hired 10 additional veteran service officers (VSOs) for a total of 24 accredited VSOs. Secretary Quintana said that the department is continuing to build strong partnerships with other state agencies.

2023 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (2:48 p.m.)

Committee members discussed and made changes to the 2023 interim work plan and meeting schedule. The approved work plan and meeting schedule can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work_Plans/MVACworkplan23.pdf.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.