



# MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TASK FORCE

## AGENDA

The Westin Indianapolis Hotel – 241 W Washington St,  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Aug. 13, 2023**

A Pre-Conference to the NCSL Legislative Summit

*NCSL and the Task Force gratefully acknowledge the support of the  
U.S. Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Integration Program (REPI),  
Amazon, Bombardier, Everytown for Gun Safety,  
Maximus, the Nuclear Energy Institute and Walmart.*

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**Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023**

**The Westin Indianapolis Hotel – Capitol 2 Room**

8 – 8:45 a.m.	Buffet breakfast provided
8:30 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force Convenes</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening Remarks by Task Force Co-Chairs</li> <li>▪ <b>Rep. Tina Orwall</b>, Washington and <b>Sen. Bryce Reeves</b>, Virginia</li> <li>▪ Pledge of Allegiance – <b>Rep. Orwall</b></li> <li>▪ Participant introductions around the table and the room – <b>Sen. Reeves</b></li> <li>▪ NCSL Update: Announcing a new NCSL publication – <u><i>Mission Ready: State Policy Options to Sustain Military Installations</i></u> – <b>Jim Reed</b>, NCSL</li> </ul>

8:55 a.m.	<p><i>Spotlight on Military and Veterans Affairs in Indiana</i></p> <p>Presiding: Co-Chair <b>Sen. Bryce Reeves</b>, Virginia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Major General R. Dale Lyles</b>, the Adjutant General of Indiana</li> <li>▪ <b>Gabrielle Owen</b>, general counsel and legislative director, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs</li> </ul>
9:45 a.m.	Short Break
9:55 a.m.	<p><i>Suicide Prevention Policy Initiatives</i></p> <p>This session focuses two national initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The Governor’s and Mayor’s Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF)</i>, in which 54 states and territories and 19 communities are developing and implementing the suicide prevention best practices; and</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.</li> </ul> <p>Presiding: Co-Chair <b>Rep. Tina Orwall</b>, Washington</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr. Richard McKeon</b>, chief, Suicide Prevention Branch Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr. Larry Pruitt</b>, director of suicide prevention services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Puget Sound Healthcare System</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr. Kate Metro</b>, program director, Veterans Programs, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Vibrant Emotional Health</li> <li>▪ <b>Ryan Seymour</b>, U.S. Army veteran and program manager, standards, training and practices, Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), Vibrant Emotional Health</li> </ul> <p>Respondent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chris Marvin</b>, U.S. Army veteran and engagement specialist, Everytown for Gun Safety</li> </ul>
11:05 a.m.	Short Break
11:15 a.m.	<p><i>Juvenile Justice on Base: Improving Access to Juvenile Justice on Military Installations</i></p> <p>Exclusive federal jurisdiction on military installations can send juveniles through an adult judicial system. Access to state juvenile and family courts may allow for more suitable outcomes. This session will examine how state lawmakers can remove these barriers and pursue solutions that support military families.</p> <p>Presiding: <b>Rep. Mari Leavitt</b>, Washington</p> <p>Introduction of speakers: <b>Tammie Perreault</b> and <b>Shane Preston</b>, Defense State Liaison Office, U.S. Department of Defense</p> <p>Speakers:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>John Sullivan</b>, concurrent jurisdiction project director &amp; associate director for defense &amp; security, Guidehouse Consultancy</li> <li>▪ <b>Mary Reding</b>, President, Vetric Group, LLC</li> <li>▪ <b>Lori Volkman</b>, concurrent jurisdiction legal director, Guidehouse Consultancy, &amp; director, Vetric Group, LLC</li> </ul>
Noon	Break for lunch: Buffet lunch provided
1 p.m.	<p>Briefing on the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) <u>All State and Territory Benefits Analysis Database</u></p> <p>Hear about the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) database of benefits for veterans on 30 topics including education, employment housing, veterans’ homes, taxes, spouse portable licensing and dozens more.</p> <p>Presiding: <b>Sen. Larry Zikmund</b>, South Dakota  Speaker: <b>Allen Dow</b>, Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs</p>
1:20 p.m.	<p><i>Task Force Member and Sponsor Roundtable</i></p> <p>Facilitators: Co-Chairs <b>Rep. Orwall</b> and <b>Sen. Reeves</b>, Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Task force members and sponsors are invited to give a brief, three-minute overview of state legislative initiatives for the 2024 sessions addressing military and veterans’ issues.</li> </ul>
2:25 p.m.	Break - Snacks and beverages provided
2:45 p.m.	<p><i>Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape</i></p> <p>Sentinel landscapes are areas where conservation, working lands, and national defense interests converge. This session will focus on the creation of the vast Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape by the efforts of 25 partners, anchored by four DoD installations and ranges and containing 45 designated parks, forests, fish and wildlife areas, and nature preserves. The landscape partnership preserves and protects military mission readiness, operations, testing and training capabilities, while also supporting agricultural lands, providing for watershed protections, restoring forests through sustainable land management and protections, and assisting habitat preservation.</p> <p>Presiding: <b>Rep. Adam Miller</b>, Ohio  Speaker: <b>Rob McCrea</b>, landscape conservation attorney, The Conservation Law Center, Bloomington, Ind.</p>
3:30 p.m.	<p><i>Briefing on Defense Support of Civil Authorities</i></p> <p>When requested, the U.S. Department of Defense provides support to civil authorities through the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) program during emergencies.</p>

	<p>Capabilities provided include aviation lift, search and rescue or extraction, quartermaster (food, shelter, potable water, heated tents, etc.), civil affairs and public information, and engineer capability. Hear about recent deployments.</p> <p>Presiding: <b>Jim Reed</b>, director &amp; staff to Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force, NCSL  Speaker: <b>Alicia Natwick</b>, Major, U.S. Army Reserve and Program Coordinator, NCSL</p>
4 p.m.	<p><i>Review Plan for Veterans Tribute on Tuesday, August 15, 7:30 – 10:15 am</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Briefing on breakfast and planned plenary tribute to military veterans serving in state legislature, both elected and staff, and related military/veterans' activities and sessions.</li> <li>▪ Review run of show and plan for distribution of custom designed NCSL commemorative coin to honor those who serve.</li> <li>▪ Speaker: <b>Jim Reed</b>, NCSL</li> </ul>
	<i>Other Business</i>
4:30 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>

**Monday, August 14, 2023**

<p>2:45 – 3:45 p.m.  Indianapolis  Convention Center  140-142</p>	<p><i>Land Grab: The Latest on Foreign Ownership</i></p> <p>Foreign owners hold more than 40 million acres (about twice the area of South Carolina) of U.S. farmland, a trend that has many legislators raising concerns about the impact on the food supply and national security. Several states are considering legislation to restrict such ownership. Join us to unpack the data and varying requirements around foreign land ownership in the U.S. and explore the latest state and federal action.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Kenneth Bogner</b>, Senate President pro tempore, Montana Legislature  Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dan Burke</b>, director, Air Force Foreign Investment Risk Review Office</li> <li>▪ <b>Micah Brown</b>, staff attorney, National Agricultural Law Center</li> <li>▪ <b>Zongyuan Zoe Liu</b>, Fellow for International Political Economy, Council on Foreign Relations</li> </ul>
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**Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

<p>7:30 – 8:45 a.m.</p> <p>Convention Center 104-106</p>	<p><i>Military Veteran Meet and Greet Breakfast</i></p> <p>Ahead of the General Session tribute to military veterans in the state legislatures, a gathering over a continental breakfast will connect military veterans in public service, both as lawmakers, legislative staff, and delegates to the NCSL Summit. The general session speaker Cedric King will make brief remarks. All veterans attending the Summit are welcome!</p> <p>Welcome: NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs Co-Chaires: <b>Rep Tina Orwall</b>, Washington and <b>Sen. Bryce Reeves</b>, Virginia</p> <p>Remarks: <b>Master Sgt. Cedric King</b></p> <p><u><i>Military Task Force members will help distribute commemorative coins to military veterans as they enter the room for breakfast.</i></u></p>
<p>9 – 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Convention Center Sagamore Ballroom</p>	<p><i>NCSL Legislative Summit General Session</i></p> <p>Tribute to Veterans Group Photo</p> <p><b>Master Sgt. Cedric King</b> lost both legs and suffered permanent damage to his right arm and hand from an improvised explosive device in 2012. He now refers to that moment as his finest hour. King ran the Boston Marathon in 2014 and authored a book, "The Making Point." Hear about his amazing achievements since then, and learn how to find strength after loss, disappointment and fatigue.</p>
<p>2:45 – 3:45 p.m.</p> <p>Indianapolis Convention Center 140-142</p>	<p><i>Don't Let Disasters Break the Bank</i></p> <p>Increasingly expensive natural disasters have prompted states and the federal government to develop innovative funding and financing, such as infrastructure banks, bonds and revolving loan funds. Learn how these mechanisms are being used to address disaster prevention and mitigation, and their impact on long-term fiscal health.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Geoffrey Buswick</b>, managing director &amp; government sector leader, U.S. Public Finance, S&amp;P Global Market Intelligence</li> <li>▪ <b>Kristin Thomasgard</b>, program director, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program. U.S. Department of Defense</li> <li>▪ <b>Samantha Medlock</b>, president, Climate Risk Advisors, LLC</li> </ul>

NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs Staff

Jim Reed | Brooke Oleen | Jennifer Schultz | Jon Jukuri | Deanna Ross | Jennifer Kraft

**Next meeting of the task force is TBD.**