

# State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY  
GOVERNOR

November 22, 2013

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 34

### COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly passed and I have signed 2013 N.C. Sess. Laws 227, creating the Military Affairs Commission within the Office of the Governor which shall advise the Governor, the General Assembly and State agencies on initiatives, programs, and legislation that will continue and increase the role that North Carolina's military installations, the National Guard, and the Reserve play in America's defense strategy and the economic health and vitality of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is the home of six major Department of Defense (DOD)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) installations: Coast Guard Station, Elizabeth City; Fort Bragg; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point; Marine Corps Air Station New River; Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base as well as other DOD/DHS activities, properties and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. military is the second largest sector of North Carolina's economy, accounting for 10% of North Carolina's gross state product, worth \$48 billion, and more than 540,000 individuals are either directly employed by the military or working in jobs providing goods or services that support the military's presence in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, defense procurement contracts in North Carolina exceeded \$2.4 billion in fiscal year 2012, and businesses with defense related contracts operate in 87 of North Carolina's 100 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is committed to supporting and promoting the military within the state; and

**WHEREAS**, incompatible development of land close to a military installation can adversely affect the ability of such an installation to carry out its mission; and

**WHEREAS**, many military installations also depend on low altitude aviation training, which could be adversely affected by development; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued long-term military presence in North Carolina is directly dependent on DOD/DHS's ability to operate not only its installations but also its training and other readiness functions critical to national defense; and

**WHEREAS**, it is, therefore, of paramount importance to the future of North Carolina to maintain the best possible relationship with all branches of the U.S. military and to promote practices that maintain North Carolina's preeminent position as the best location for military bases and training installations; and

**WHEREAS**, to those ends, it is critical for all North Carolinians, all North Carolina businesses, all sectors of North Carolina's economy, and especially all branches and agencies of North Carolina's state and local governments to be knowledgeable about not only the military's presence and contributions to our state but also of the military's special and unique requirements that are critical to carrying out its national defense mission;

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina also seeks to promote the economic development, growth, and expansion of other industries within the state, such as the agriculture/agribusiness industry, the renewable energy industry, the tourism/outdoor recreation industry and the fisheries industry; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has a vested economic interest in the preservation and enhancement of land uses that are compatible with military activities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is equally critical that activities of state agencies be planned and executed with full awareness of and sensitivity to their actual and potential impacts on the military; and

**WHEREAS**, the usefulness of such operational awareness is directly dependent on the timely exchange of information between all potentially affected parties at the earliest possible phase of any agency activity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for state agencies and local governments to consider the needs of our military installations, missions, and communities in their economic development activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

**Section 1.**

The Secretary of each Cabinet Agency shall designate a Military Affairs Awareness Coordinator, whose responsibilities shall include:

- a. Staying informed of the workings and activities of the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission and maintaining regular and effective communications with its administrative head, the Governor's Military Advisor;
- b. Staying informed of the workings and activities of the North Carolina Commanders' Council and maintaining regular and effective communications with its North Carolina communications portal, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ("DENR") Military Liaison and the Governor's Military Advisor;
- c. Becoming familiar with the North Carolina Working Lands Group and its implementation of the Governor's Land Compatibility Task Force Report;
- d. Becoming familiar with the operations of his/her own agency as it could impact military readiness and training;
- e. Regularly informing his/her Secretary of any military readiness or training concerns which could impact, or be impacted by, any of his/her Agency's activities or plans;
- f. Regularly informing the Governor's Military Advisor of any military readiness or training concerns which could impact, or be impacted by, any of his/her Agency's activities or plans;
- g. Regularly informing the North Carolina Commanders' Council, through the Governor's Military Advisor and the DENR Military Liaison, of any military readiness or training concerns which could impact, or be impacted by, any of his/her Agency's activities or plans; and

- h. Regularly informing any other state or local agency of any military readiness or training concerns which could impact, or be impacted by, that agency's activities or plans.

## **Section 2.**

All Cabinet Agencies shall:

- a. Cooperate with military installations and missions to encourage compatible land use, help prevent incompatible encroachment, and facilitate the continued presence of major military installations in this state;
- b. Notify the commanding military officer of a military installation and the governing body in affected counties and municipalities of any economic development or other projects that may impact military installations;
- c. Obtain knowledge of military requirements within local communities and throughout the State;
- d. Ensure that appropriate training on the requirements of military installations, missions, and communities is provided for staff members and others who work in the areas of land use planning, infrastructure siting, permitting, or economic development;
- e. Ensure that land use planning activities take into account the compatibility of land near military installations;
- f. Adopt processes to ensure that all agency planning, policy formulation, and actions are conducted with timely consideration having been given to relevant military readiness or training concerns, and with appropriate communications with all potentially affected military entities, including the entities listed in Section 1 (a) and 1(b);
- g. Collaborate with applicants for grants, site selection, permits or other agency actions to avoid adverse impacts on military readiness or authority and incompatible land uses; and
- h. Share information and coordinate efforts with the North Carolina congressional delegation and other federal agencies, as appropriate, to fulfill the objectives of this Executive Order.

## **Section 3.**

The Department of Commerce, DENR, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety are specifically directed to work with the North Carolina Commanders' Council and the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission to identify issues that could affect the compatibility of development with military installations and operations. Representatives from each aforementioned department shall coordinate with the Governor's Military Advisor regarding any issues identified.

## **Section 4.**

The Secretary of the Department of Commerce and the Secretary of DENR are directed to work with the other cabinet agencies and other interested stakeholders to reexamine existing efforts, and to formulate new initiatives, designed to further the objectives set out in this Executive Order.

## **Section 5.**

The heads of each Council of State Agency and all other state agencies, including boards and commissions, are encouraged to take the actions outlined above in Sections 1 and 2.

**Section 6.**

Local governments whose communities are affected by military installations are strongly encouraged to adopt criteria and address compatibility of lands adjacent to or closely proximate to existing military installations in their land use plans. Local governments are also strongly encouraged to comply with the provisions of Section 2 of this Executive Order.

**Section 7.**

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 127C-3, the Governor's Military Advisor shall serve as the administrative head of the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission and be responsible for the operations and normal business activities of the Commission, with oversight by the Commission. Within existing resources, the Office of the Governor shall provide additional technical and administrative assistance, including staff, to the Commission as needed.

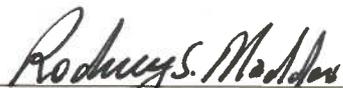
**Section 8.**

This Executive Order is effective immediately. It supersedes and replaces all other executive orders on this subject and specifically rescinds Executive Order No. 124 issued on August 18, 2012. This Executive Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this twenty-second day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

  
Pat McCrory  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State

