

# SUMMARY OF MEETING

## MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY BASES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

May 20, 2003

### *Agenda*

**10:00-10:15** *Welcome and Introductions:*

***Colonel Steven Zander, Commander, 4<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron  
Dr. Gretchen Bataille, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, UNC  
Office of the President***

Colonel Zander welcomed all the guests to the meeting and invited everyone to participate in the return of the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing from Iraq later in the afternoon.

Dr. Bataille voiced appreciation to all who made the meeting possible and indicated UNC's ongoing support for the military in North Carolina. She mentioned the work of the UNC system in establishing opportunities for Army personnel to pursue graduate education, the military tuition bills in the legislature, and the goals that have already been accomplished in the ten months since the first meeting.

**10:15-10:30** ***4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Mission Briefing: 2d Lt Walker Moody, Operations Team Chief, 4<sup>th</sup> Manpower***

2<sup>ND</sup> Lt. Walker Moody provided a PowerPoint presentation that introduced the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Mission

**10:30-10:45** ***Military Student Perspective: Chief Master Sergeant Paul T. Parker, Command Chief, 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing***

Chief Master Sergeant Paul Parker emphasized the importance of educational opportunities for military personnel and their families.

**10:45-Noon** ***Review and discussion of issues identified at 7/31/02 meeting of military base and UNC representatives:***

- ***Military tuition & fees update—Jim Sadler***
  - House Bill 51 and Senate Bill 61 were introduced in the NC General Assembly to address this issue. Meeting participants will be updated on these bills.
- ***Standardized processes for billing, admissions, etc.—Jim Sadler***

- Presentations have been made to UNC system admissions officers, registrars, and others; developments are ongoing.
- ***Troops to Teachers—Paul Gregg***
  - UNC Wilmington has received a federal grant to support its Troops to Teachers initiative.
  - NC State University is pursuing Troops to Teachers initiative with Cumberland County Schools (Fort Bragg area).
  - At the request of UNC, the NC Department of Public Instruction has agreed to reconstitute an advisory council for NC Troops to Teachers.
  - Coordination of UNC schools of education in Troops to Teachers participation will be addressed at a regularly scheduled Dean's Council meeting.
- ***Online programs and courses—Alan Mabe***
  - DANTES: Information on DANTES participation has been shared with UNC campuses. East Carolina University continues to add to its degree programs listed, and UNC Chapel Hill lists its Carolina Courses Online. NC State University has added its online degree programs. All NCSU distance education courses, certificates and degrees will be listed in DANTES for DOD compliance. Records and Registration, Admissions, the Graduate School, and the Cashiers Office are included in the administrative management of this project. Online course registrations are ready to begin in this fall semester, 2003.
  - ECU is investigating the use of wireless, hand-held devices to deliver instruction. Criminal Justice faculty and the Center for Wireless and Mobile computing assisted at least four individuals deployed during Iraqi Freedom. These student-soldiers were able to continue participation in courses by using PDA and microchip technology.
  - North Carolina A&T State University is approved to serve military students by partnering with the Service Members Opportunity Colleges (SOC), a government agency that authorizes colleges and universities to offer distance learning courses and degrees to students who are serving in the various military branches including the Army, Navy, and Marines. The Center for Distance Learning at NC A&TSU has become the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) office to establish programs or courses at a distance with eArmyU, which currently provides educational services to 80,000 enlisted military personnel. Soldier-students are currently enrolled in the Occupational Safety & Health Program (OSH) program. Two CDL staff members attended eArmyU educational partners meeting in San Diego with Army education counselors / program mentors (Fall 2002)

*12:00-1:00 Lunch (Discussions will continue)*

*12:30-1:30 Update on UNC constituent institutions' work with NC military bases to identify higher education needs*

- **East Carolina University's** Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) [Steve Duncan] held two information sessions – one at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and one in Wayne County (the county in which the base is located) to inform the military community in that area what online programs East Carolina University delivers to students in spring 2001. Staff also participated in career and education fairs at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force base. In fall 2001, DCS participated in an education fair at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Station. In March of 2003, DCS traveled to the Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City to talk to Coast Guard personnel and their families about ECU's online programs. The division has asked all the military bases to include ECU in any invitations to future fairs. Each semester, DCS prints a course catalog – called “options” – and a number are mailed to education and training centers at Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, New River Marine Corps Station, Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune. Advertising regarding ECU programs is routinely placed in the Windsock – the newspaper that serves Cherry Point MCAS, and on the three network affiliates that broadcast to most of the bases in Eastern North Carolina. The Division of Continuing Studies developed an advertising campaign that reflected the lives and experiences of our students. We asked our online students to send us their “stories” – to tell us why they enrolled and what they think of our online programs, and several of these reports are from active duty military who were enrolled in ECU online courses.
- **Elizabeth City State University** [Bill Barker] serves the men and women stationed at the Elizabeth City Coast Guard and their dependents. They routinely attend classes at ECSU in pursuit of degrees, continuing education and life-long-learning. Coast Guard funding has allowed numerous active duty members to receive degrees at ECSU. Over the past 24 months ECSU and the USCG have sought to establish an agreement that would provide a “degree contract” for graduates of the USCG Aviation Technical Training Command. The degree, in Aviation Maintenance Management, would be a curriculum based on the credits the students have earned in the Coast Guard School and courses they need to satisfy the curriculum requirements established by the University.
- **Fayetteville State University** [Perry Massey] continues to offer nine baccalaureate degree programs at its Fort Bragg campus: Biology, Business Administration, Elementary Education, English Language &

Literature, History, Mathematics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

- **North Carolina A&T State University [Gwen Goddard]**, in addition to eArmyU activities described above, conducted on-site recruiting efforts at Fort Bragg (Fall 2002). Discussions with the Center for Distance Learning, School of Education, the University attorney, and other key stakeholders are taking place to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Seymour Johnson to offer undergraduate and graduate programs to military students. NCA&TSU has held discussions with National Guard and Davidson Community College to offer Instructional Technology (Business & Industry) and licensure courses to military students.
- **North Carolina State University [Tom Miller and Kay Zimmerman]** has spent the past ten months evaluating and researching the need, capability and challenges of serving the US Armed Forces bases in North Carolina. The military initiative objective is to establish the justification and analysis of the formal development of a Military Distance Learning Partnership with NCSU and the NC Armed Forces (Ft. Bragg, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Pope Air Force Base, Cherry Point NAV AIR, Camp Lejeune, NC National Guard). Market examination, competitive analysis, NCSU inventory of courses, degrees, faculty academic and college administrative support, technical infrastructure capabilities evaluation, student support assessment, budget and financial cost capabilities estimate, marketing needs appraisal, secure enrollment commitments, as well as management and resource capacity support evaluation are among the many areas that must be reviewed and adjusted. NCSU's distance education culture has previously supported small military initiatives, but nothing of the magnitude that is possible at this time. Enterprise level capabilities are required to meet the new expected level of service. Strategies have been developed and meetings have been held with each College and their faculty leadership to secure their commitment. These discussions have included prioritizing opportunities, engaging support, providing readiness assessments, and prioritizing resource support. Also, the timing to enter this market has required a thorough analysis and development of formal strategies, which have been created into an operational plan. Internal marketing will include ROTC and Alumni promotion. Virtual advising through desktop videoconferencing will support degree-seeking students, and websites will be hyperlinked to generate new degree seeking student interest. Based on market research and military surveys, the College of Engineering, Engineering Online (EOL) will be the first to offer six graduate degrees and one certificate to the new military distance education partnership. Cherry Point NAV AIR, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Pope Air Force Base, and Ft. Bragg will be the targeted markets. EOL has developed a marketing plan including digital, print

and recruitment efforts. Market evaluation for new degrees, including 2+2 community college partnerships, will dedicate resources for future degree development.

DELTA has achieved buy-in for additional degrees and certificates including: The College of Education Training and Development, Lateral Entry-Troops to Teachers, and professional development teacher education courses. The College of Agriculture will offer Food Safety certificate, Lateral Entry Agriculture courses. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is interested in a possible military cohort in The Administrative Officers Management Program and possibly a Bachelor Degree completion program, plus flexible access courses.

Obstacles and challenges that will need to be faced to successfully implement this project include: existing UNC tuition barriers, financial support needed for a recruiter and marketing funds. New military student body transition problems could be expected in the areas of transcript evaluation and accepting Associate degrees or credits from colleges outside NC, SOCAD transfer concerns, DANTES grade/transcript requirements, cost to develop and deliver new DE degrees, cashier's offices accepting military credit cards, and additional technical infrastructure costs.

- **UNC Greensboro [Robert Brown]** has begun steps to put two degrees online for military personnel. The first is the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies; UNCG hopes to have the entire degree online by August 2004. The second initiative is to develop an online completion degree, the Bachelor of Liberal Studies; UNCG will collaborate with NCSU on this project, and expects to begin offering this distance learning program in August 2004 as well.
- **UNC Pembroke [Collie Coleman]** representatives have made several visits to Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, and Seymour Johnson AFB and have displayed marketing materials for UNCP at area bases. On May 6, the UNC Provost convened a special meeting of the 11-member Council of Deans to discuss a proposed partnership with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. They endorsed the concept of a partnership as "an idea whose time has come," and expressed a strong sentiment that UNCP move forward with this planning.
- **UNC Wilmington [Becky Porterfield]**, in addition to the Troops to Teachers initiative noted above, has had several productive meetings with Camp Lejeune representatives and deans and others from the campus. UNCW currently offers the following baccalaureate programs in the Camp Lejeune area: Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Education of Young Children, Elementary Education, and Nursing.
- **North Carolina Central University [Beverly Jones]** reported on distance education activities at that campus. NCCU has an online Master's in Library Science and site-based programs in elementary

Education, Nursing, and Business Administration offered at military base locations.

- **Winston-Salem State University [Cecelia McDaniel]** reported on the clinical laboratory science program that is online.

**1:30-1:45**      *New/additional issues*

- **Coordinated advising presence at each NC military base.**
- **Other issues.**

Issues brought up during the day included the following:

- Unanimous agreement that a military tuition bill needs to pass the General Assembly
- Need for permanent advisors at each base
- Recognition of distance education benefits while still preferring on-site instruction for many military personnel
- Need for more teacher education programs, whether through lateral entry or 4-year programs; also interest in certification programs and master's in education
- Need for computer science programs
- Need for clarification of residency, particularly for dependents who have started at a UNC campus and then the parent moves to another state and military personnel who retire in North Carolina and then must wait a year to establish residency
- Need to market Troops to Teachers
- Need to review the Soldier and Sailor Relief Act for relevancy to current situations
- Recognition that UNC campuses need to take advantage of Education Fairs on bases—need to let campuses know when these are occurring
- Need to reactivate advisory council in DPI
- Review possible sources of funding from “No Child Left Behind”
- UNC campuses and SOC—how many campuses are members?
- EArmyU—Ft. Bragg could have used 8000 enrollments but only got 1000—need to expand program opportunities
- Need to review outdated policies such as requirements for last 30 credits to be completed on campus—affects distance education programs
- Need to learn from assessments being done on the bases

**1:45-2:00**      *Wrap Up: Dr. Bataille and Colonel Zander*

**2:00**              *Optional Tour of Education Center/Library*

**Note: The meeting ended when word was received that the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing was arriving. Michelle Howard-Vital closed the meeting as some participants left for the airfield.**

**Next Steps:**

- 1. Communicate with all participants—Bataille has sent a note to everyone thanking them for participating**
- 2. Schedule another meeting—Sadler will do so**
- 3. Send roster and email addresses to all participants—Sadler will do so**
- 4. Bring together a small group to plan ongoing communications.**
- 5. Consider forming a planning committee for a state-wide meeting on military initiatives—Steve Duncan is interested in pursuing this**
- 6. EVERYONE—communicate with legislators about the importance of the military tuition bills being considered in the General Assembly**