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Subject: Veterans Exec Order - Press Release?

Attachments: 2016-XX Establishing Veterans Policy Advisory Committee.docx

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Attached is the draft order that NH is scheduled to sign on Monday. Below is my attempt at a rough draft for an accompanying press release, should it be helpful.

Gov. Nikki Haley establishes Committee to address Veterans Issues

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today established the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee to make recommendations to improve the quality of life for veterans in South Carolina.

A copy of the governor's executive order establishing the committee is available [here](#).

The committee is charged with analyzing the contributions and needs of the more than 400,000 military veterans in South Carolina. Specifically, the committee will focus on the challenges service men and women face as they transition from military to civilian life, including reentering the workforce or coping with physical or mental stresses. South Carolina is home to more than 31,000 Active Duty soldiers and 18,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists. Since Gov. Haley took office, soldiers in the South Carolina National Guard has made more than 9,000 deployments.

"We are a proud military state, and like so many South Carolinians, I come from a proud military family. I can think of no better way to thank our veterans than by taking care of them when their time of service ends. The Veterans Policy Advisory Committee will assist lawmakers and state agencies in making decisions that provide a better quality of life for military families and their communities."

Recommendations for policy changes will be reported annually to the South Carolina Military Base Task Force and the governor for review. Membership of the committee includes military veterans, state legislators, and representatives from multiple state agencies, including the Adjutant General's Office, Dept. of Employment and Workforce, Dept. of Drug, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Dept. of Mental Health, and Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs.

[Quote from General Livingston.]

[Quote from Bill Bethea, Chairman of the Military Base Task Force.]

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