

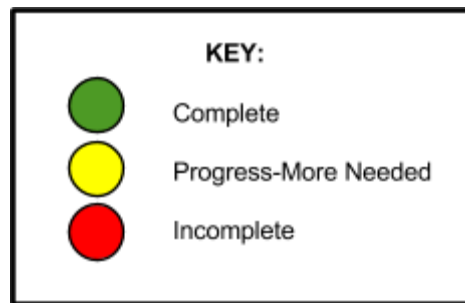
LR 201: Policy Options to Support Nebraska's Military Installations, Military Members, Veterans and their Families









Background:

In December 2008, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Task Force issued a report outlining threats and opportunities facing Nebraska's military installations. The report included 8 policy recommendations Nebraska could take to protect its military assets.

We met with many stakeholders over the interim to discuss the 2008 recommendations and to identify new concerns relative to military assets and our military and veteran families. What follows is a summary of progress made on the 2008 recommendations, as well as new policy recommendations to protect Nebraska's military assets and support military and veteran families.

2008 BRAC Task Force Recommendations:

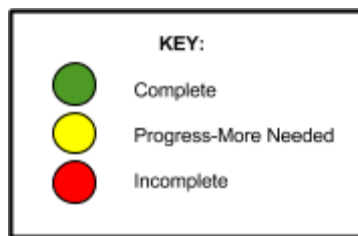


-  Increase state appropriation to ensure full commitment of federal dollars for infrastructure needs of National Guard Bases.
-  Provide support for local subdivisions in their efforts to improve military installations.
-  Create a permanent, statewide commission to address long-term issues of military installations and missions.
-  Land use planning legislation to ensure governmental entities and developers coordinate when building near military bases.
-  Colleges and universities offer courses that support missions.
-  State appropriates funds to acquire East Campus Armory to lessen the Nebraska Army National Guard's facility debt.
-  Legislation to support military personnel and families including employment and educational opportunities.
-  Tax relief for retired military personnel to encourage military retirees to live and work in Nebraska.

2013 Policy Recommendations:

1. Provide a permanent funding source for Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.
2. Facilitate military members and their spouses receiving licensure and academic credit recognizing their military training, experience and/or licensing in other jurisdictions.
3. Waive tuition residency requirements for qualified veterans who establish residency in Nebraska and attend one of Nebraska's public colleges or universities.
4. Work with Nebraska's courts to develop veterans treatment options for veterans with mental health conditions or substance addictions.
5. Improve access to services for veterans, including through telehealth initiatives between the VA and Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network.

State Policy Options:



- 1 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- 2 Recognition of Military Training and Experience for Career Licensing and Certification
- 3 Career Licensing Portability for Military Spouses
- 4 In-state Tuition for Separating Service Members
- 5 Veterans Treatment Courts
- 6 Veteran Status Indicated on Driver's License/State ID
- 7 Veteran's Preference in State Hiring
- 8 Military Retirement Pay Exempt From State Taxes
- 9 Unemployment Compensation for Military Spouses
- 10 Child Custody Issues Facing Military Families