

Executive Order No. 2016-24

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina is proud of its longstanding, rich military history, serving as home to defense installations and more than 31,000 Active Duty soldiers, 18,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists, and 400,000 military veterans who continue to enhance the overall quality of life for our citizens and enrich the fabric of our state socially, economically, and politically; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of my Administration, South Carolina's National Guardsmen have made more than 9,000 deployments, along with countless others by South Carolinians serving in the United States Armed Forces, to support the defense of our nation and the security of our people; and

WHEREAS, following active service, mobilization, or retirement, the transition from military to civilian life oftentimes imposes unique challenges for veterans, their families, and their communities, creating an opportunity for our state to improve policies that better serve those who have served us; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 342 of 2010 and reauthorizing Acts 101 of 2011, 320 of 2012, and 127 of 2015, the Committee to Study Certain Issues Affecting Veterans has issued its report and was sunset on February 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is my belief that the State should continue to study certain issues affecting veterans to augment the ongoing efforts of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force, which works to enhance the value of military installations and facilities and the quality of life for military personnel in South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the power conferred upon me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the South Carolina Veterans Policy Advisory Committee, which shall act as an advisory committee to the South Carolina Military Base Task Force for the purpose of analyzing the contributions and needs of veterans in the State of South Carolina. In conducting its work, the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee shall solicit testimony from veterans in making policy recommendations and shall report its recommendations to the Governor and the South Carolina Military Base Task Force not less than annually.

FURTHER, the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following fifteen members with staff support provided by the Military Base Task Force and the Department of Commerce, accordingly:

1. Chairman of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force, who shall either serve as or designate the Chair;
2. Member of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force;
3. Member of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force;
4. Military Veteran appointed by the Governor;
5. Military Veteran appointed by the Governor;
6. Senator representing a military community appointed by the Governor;
7. Senator representing a military community appointed by the Governor;
8. Member of the House of Representatives representing a military community appointed by the Governor;
9. Member of the House of Representatives representing a military community appointed by the Governor;
10. Adjutant General or his designee;
11. Director of the Department of Administration Office of Veterans' Affairs or his designee;
12. Director the Department of Employment and Workforce or his designee;
13. Director of the Department of Drug, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services or his designee;
14. Director of the Department of Mental Health or his designee; and
15. Director of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs or his designee.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall be rescinded upon the rescission of Executive Order 2013-04.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
THIS 26TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.**

NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor