



Minutes

Military, Veterans and First-Responders Task Force

Date: February 27, 2020

Location: Rhatigan Student Center Room 203 (Lancelot Room)

Meeting Time: 9:00a – 10:30

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chief Clark opened the 3rd meeting of the Military Veterans and First Responders Task Force by welcoming the task force members. Deanna Carrithers provided handouts of individual pillar group notes, task force meeting notes from February 13, 2020 and agenda for February 27, 2020 meeting.

II. Review Purpose of the Task Force – Chief Clark provided an overview of the agenda for the day that would consist of reviewing some general updates, reviewing specific group updates, preliminary findings, and assignments moving forward.

III. Updates – Chief Clark provided an update about The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program requirements. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) owns the VSOC program to help Veterans make the transition to college life. The VSOC program aims to help Veterans, Servicemembers, and their qualified dependents succeed and thrive through a coordinated delivery of on-campus benefits assistance and counseling, leading to completion of their education and preparing them to enter the labor market in viable careers. Per the VA, the minimum on campus enrollment of veterans for a university to participate is 800, WSU is currently at 590, not including the WSU Tech numbers. The Chief is currently verifying if the 800 is a hard stop, or if we can still work with the VA to bring this program to campus.

Chief Clark also discussed the process of creating an Air Force ROTC on campus. This process is in the very early stages and is being pursued through all appropriate channels, but it is too early to definitively provide a progress report.

Deanna Carrithers noted that the next meeting is the 45th day mark for this 90-day task force. She would like the task force to be prepared to discuss how we will assemble our information for review prior to final product creation for Dr. Golden.

IV. Pillar Group Updates – Each pillar group reviewed their current written notes for the task force. Each review sparked discussion and questions. The written pillar group notes are available separately for review. Below are the points of discussion outside of the printed handouts.



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- a. *Future Plans Pillar Group:***
1. Joe Jabara highlighted the K-State Leadership Program and Leadership Center. It was noted that WSU has similar programs that can be expanded to encompass more of our military, veteran and first responder students.
 2. WSU has an additional, and evolving, orientation program for veteran students. It was noted that the feedback from the veterans has been that the main orientation for the campus should not be required for veterans, to allow for the existing supplemental veteran orientation to be expanded.
 3. To enhance the public knowledge of WSU support of veterans, development of a campus-based honor guard to support campus events should be considered
- b. *Research On Other University Program Pillar Group:***
1. Randy Sessions highlighted San Diego State has a house, similar to a non-live-in fraternity house, specifically for veterans. The house facilitates meeting spaces, social spaces, study spaces, etc. It was noted that WSU could have a similar space for all military, veteran, first responder students.
 2. Lai-L Daugherty spoke about the San Antonio College veteran center. A 7.6 mil dollar facility that houses all student services, a one stop for all admissions, advising, enrollment, financial aid, veteran services etc.
- c. *Define First Responders & Current Services Pillar Group:***
1. Camille Childers discussed including volunteer first responders (often found in rural areas) in our definition. The question was raised of how we should accommodate those students, faculty and staff when they are called to serve during a class or work period. She noted that in addition to the obvious definitions for first responders, we should consider inclusion of family members.
 2. Discussed the creation of a first responder student organization to be a part of existing campus safety teams. Possibly to provide training and/or just to provide greater numbers of trained team members on campus.
 3. The topic of mental health services to include the idea of “Wellness” was discussed. Wellness was further defined as inclusive of physical, financial, and mental health. This is a common concept discussed at current law enforcement conferences that could be applied to our target campus population.
 4. The pillar group is researching scholarships and grant opportunities that fit our definition of first responder.
- d. *Current Services Pillar Group:***
1. Two new recent sources of funding identified. The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) is a federal grant for students whose parent or guardian was member of the U.S. armed forces and died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2011. The Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship, which requires the institution's financial aid administrator (FAA) to determine and document, in collaboration with the student, that the student was less than 24 years of age or enrolled at an institution of higher education



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at the time of his or her parent's or guardian's death.

2. Expansion of “Green Zone” training, now called “Welcoming to Campus, Those Who Serve”, to more faculty and staff. It was discussed that we should find a highly visible way (sticker or poster) to identify the office areas that have had this training.

e. Funding Options Pillar Group:

1. The discussion was focused on the pillar group notes, which are very thorough. Please refer to those notes for further information.

f. Research/Identify a Potential Center Location:

1. Chief Clark briefed that the current front runner for a Military, Veteran and First Responder Center location is in the new facility that Dr. Golden has proposed will replace the current police department, credit union, and wonder school area.

V. Preliminary Findings and Recommendations – Dr. Marché Fleming-Randle provided the following points:

- a. As we close on 45 days we need to begin the process of assembling our product for Dr. Golden. This product must also include WSU Tech data when applicable. It must be clear in its presentation of solutions and goals.
- b. At McConnell AFB the “Shocker Pathway” program currently consists of 12 students. Our articulation agreements should look to the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University agreements for a benchmark of how WSU awards credits for military training.
- c. WSU Tech has a very small military/veteran service program that must grow and mature as we develop our WSU services.
- d. Moving forward we need to consider not only how we develop our programs, but how we create something that our target group wants to participate in and support.

VI. Task Force Assignments and Next Steps – Dr. Marché Fleming-Randle provided the following elaboration to the provided agenda Assignments & Next Steps:

- a. Cover page has been completed and will be the color version
- b. Task Force members will have information sent to them regarding the process to obtain and provide Head Shots & Titles
- c. Current Recommendations should address what can be done immediately
- d. Future Recommendations should be identified in one-year, five-year, ten-year, and possibly fifteen-year time increments
- e. Statistics should include active military, retired & former military veteran, all classification of first responder, dependents of all identified groups if able

VII. Next Meeting - Thursday, March 12 at 9a in RSC 203 (Lancelot Room)



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