

April 9, 2025 at 10:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream  
UNC System Office  
223 S West Street, Board Room  
Raleigh, North Carolina

## AGENDA

- A-1. Approval of the Open Session Minutes ..... Lee Barnes
  - a. November 13, 2024 (regular in-person)
  - b. February 26, 2025 (joint in-person)
  
- A-2. Military Affairs Update .....Mary Varghese, Kathie Sidner, Bradley Wrenn
  
- A-3. Adjourn

## DRAFT MINUTES

November 13, 2024  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream  
UNC System Office  
223 S. West Street, Board Room  
Raleigh, North Carolina

This meeting of the Committee on Military and Public Affairs was presided over by Chair Jimmy D. Clark. The following committee members were also present in person or by video: Lee Barnes, Harry Brown.

Terry Hutchens, Chair Emeritus Randall Ramsey, and PBS North Carolina CEO and General Manager David Crabtree were absent.

Chancellor participating was Interim Chancellor Catherine Edmonds.

Staff members present included Bart Goodson, Elizabeth Morra, Eric Naisbitt, and others from the UNC System Office.

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### **1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The open session minutes from the May 22, 2024, Committee on Military and Public Affairs meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### **2. State Government Relations Update (Item A2)**

Chair Clark called upon Mr. Bart Goodson to provide a state government relations update. Mr. Goodson and his staff gave a review of the 2024 Legislative Short Session.

### **3. Federal Government Relations Update (Item A-3)**

Chair Clark called upon Ms. Elizabeth Morra to provide an update on the UNC System's FY 2025 federal priorities pending in the annual appropriations process, as well as the legislative outlook for the remainder of the calendar year.

### **4. Military Affairs Update (Item A-4)**

Chair Clark called upon Mr. Eric Naisbitt and his team to provide an update to the System's efforts to serve the military community. Mr. Naisbitt highlighted recent visits to NC military installations and military partnerships in development and previewed a potential policy request to consider for the NC General Assembly's 2025 Legislative Session.

**5. Adjourn**

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

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Harry Brown, Secretary

## DRAFT MINUTES

February 26, 2025 at 10:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream  
UNC System Office  
223 S. West Street, Board Room (17th Floor)  
Raleigh, North Carolina

This joint meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance and Committee on Military and Public Affairs was presided over by Chair Jimmy Clark and Chair Kirk Bradley. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present in person, via videoconference, or by phone: Lee Barnes, Harry Brown, John Fraley, Reginald Holley, Terry Hutchens, Art Pope, and Randall Ramsey.

Chancellors participating were Kelli Brown, Catherine Edmonds, and Randy Woodson. Also participating was David Crabtree, chief executive officer of PBS North Carolina. Chancellor Lee Roberts was absent.

Staff members present included Bart Goodson, Jennifer Haygood, Katherine Lynn, and others from the UNC System Office.

Committee Faculty Assembly advisors present included Jim Westerman.

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### 1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The open session minutes from the Wednesday, January 29, 2025, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### 2. Approval of 2025-27 Operating Budget Priorities (Item A-2)

Co-Chair Bradley called on Senior Vice President Jennifer Haygood to present the University of North Carolina System's budget proposals for the 2025-27 biennium, which includes the operating budget priorities that focus on enrollment growth, performance funding, building reserves, and NC Promise.

The chair asked for a motion to approve the 2025-27 Operating Budget Priorities.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Military and Public Affairs approve the 2025-27 Operating Budget Priorities and recommend to the full Board of Governors for a vote.

**Motion:** Harry Brown

**Motion carried**

### **3. Approval of 2025-27 Capital Budget Priorities (A-3)**

Co-Chair Bradley called on Ms. Haygood to present the 2025-27 Capital Budget Priorities, which focus on continued funding for the UNC repairs and renovations program and projects previously authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The chair asked for a motion to approve the 2025-27 Capital Budget Priorities.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Military and Public Affairs approve the 2025-27 Capital Budget Priorities and recommend to the full Board of Governors for a vote.

**Motion:** Harry Brown

**Motion carried**

### **4. Approval of 2025-26 Self-Liquidating Capital Improvement Projects (Item A-4)**

Co-Chair Bradley called on Vice President Katherine Lynn to present the 2025-26 Self-Liquidating Capital Improvement Projects, which includes a total debt authority of \$187.6 million.

The chair asked for a motion to approve the 2025-26 Self-Liquidating Capital Improvement Projects.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Military and Public Affairs approve the 2025-26 Self-Liquidating Capital Projects and recommend to the full Board of Governors for a vote.

**Motion:** Reginald Holley

**Motion carried**

### **5. Approval of Long Session Non-Budget Legislative Proposal (Item A-5)**

Co-Chair Clark called on Senior Vice President Bart Goodson to review the Long Session Non-Budget Legislative Proposal.

The chair asked for a motion to approve the Long Session Non-Budget Legislative Proposal.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Military and Public Affairs approve the Long Session Non-Budget Legislative Proposal and recommend to the full Board of Governors for a vote.

**Motion:** Harry Brown

**Motion carried**

**6. Approval of University of North Carolina System Federal Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress (Item A-6)**

Co-Chair Clark called on Mr. Goodson to review the University of North Carolina System Federal Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress.

The chair asked for a motion to approve the University of North Carolina System Federal Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Military and Public Affairs approve the University of North Carolina System Federal Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress and recommend to the full Board of Governors for a vote.

**Motion:** Reginald Holley

**Motion carried**

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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Harry Brown, Secretary

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Reginald Holley, Secretary

**AGENDA ITEM**

A-2. Military Affairs Update ..... Mary Varghese, Kathie Sidner, Bradley Wrenn

**Situation:** The committee will hear an update from the UNC System Military Affairs Team on its progress to serve North Carolina’s military-affiliated learners and communities.

**Background:** As part of its 2022-27 strategic plan, the UNC System committed to its service to North Carolina’s military community with specific strategic goals to increase military-affiliated enrollment and military partnerships. The committee will hear a progress update on federal, state, System, and institution-led initiatives to achieve the established strategic goals. An overview will be given on military enrollment trends and federal and state military partnerships. Also, the Military Affairs team will provide an update on the UNC Military Equivalency System, an online system that enables any military service member — or member of the public — to search and view military course equivalencies across the UNC System.

**Assessment:** In this session, the committee will hear an update on military affairs initiatives.

**Action:** This item is for information only.



# MILITARY AFFAIRS UPDATE

Committee on Military and Public Affairs

April 9, 2025



# Roadmap

## 1 Our Strategic Commitment to NC Military

- Growing Military Enrollment
- Expanding Military Partnerships

## 2 Serving Our NC Military-Affiliated Family

- Federal Initiatives
- State Initiatives
- System Initiatives
- Institutional Initiatives



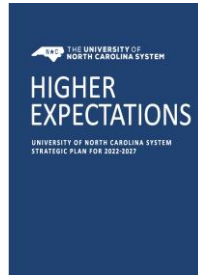
# Our Strategic Commitment: Growing Military Enrollment

## UNC System Strategic Goal: Military Enrollment

20.5K Baseline Enrollment (2021)

25.0K Target Enrollment (2027)

22.2K Current Enrollment (2024)



16%

v.

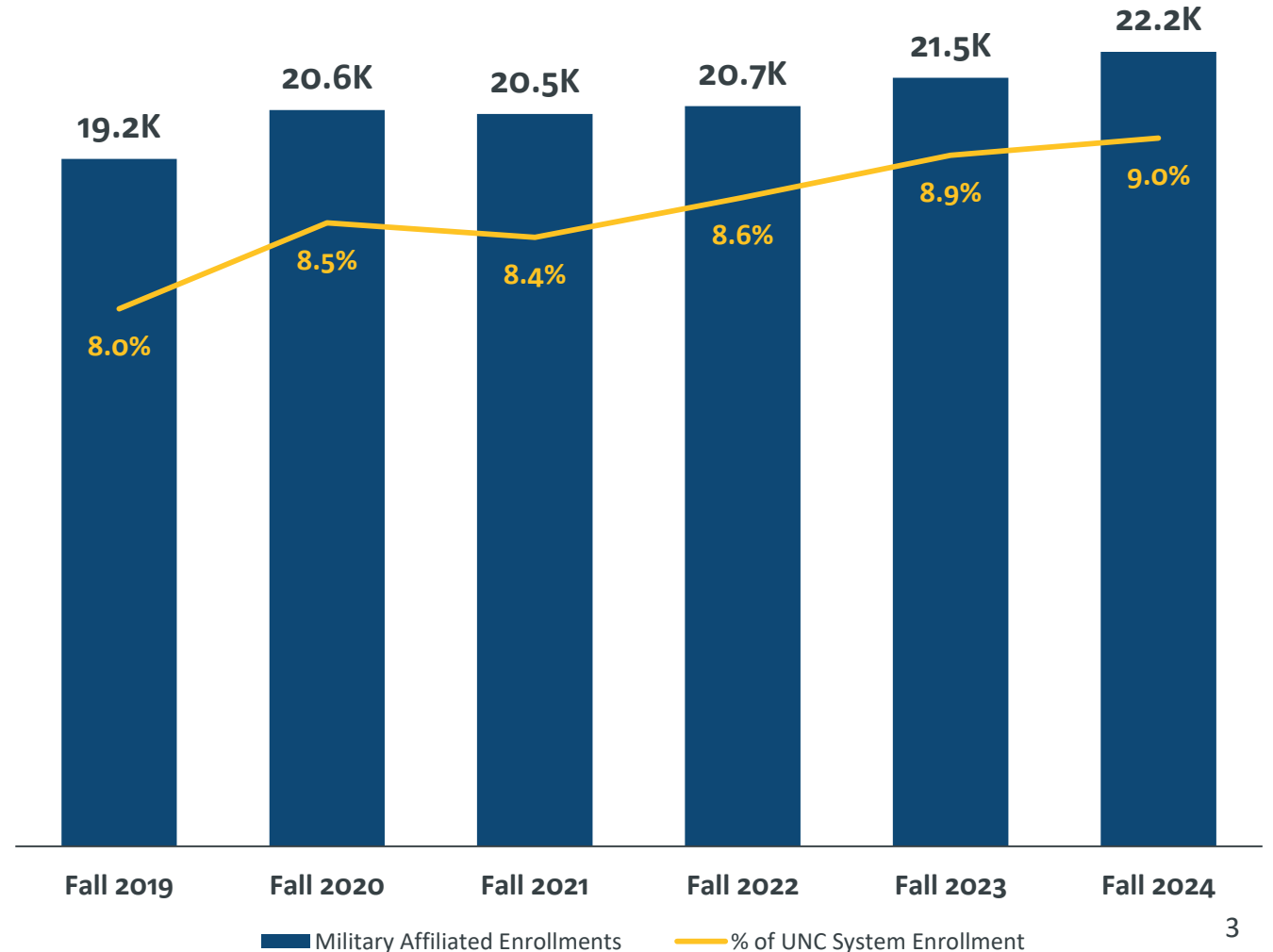
3%

5-yr Military  
Affiliated  
Enrollment  
Growth  
(2019-2024)

5-yr UNC System  
Overall Enrollment  
Growth  
(2019-2024)



## UNC System Military-Affiliated Enrollment<sup>1</sup> Fall 2019-2024

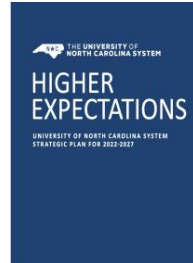


1) Includes active military, veterans, spouses and dependents

# Our Strategic Commitment: Expanding Military Partnerships

## UNC System Strategic Goal: Military Partnerships

- 12 Baseline Partnerships (2021)
- 20 Target Partnerships (2027)
- 19 Current Partnerships (2024)



UNC System and XVIII Airborne (ABN) Corps  
Educational Partnership Agreement signing

## Select UNC System Military Partnerships<sup>1</sup>



Delivers **mental health first aid** training to student veterans, educators, caregivers, and families



Provides **internship opportunities** for UNC students to work with military families



Data exchange focused on **military credit articulation** and military student outcomes



Connects students directly with employers and enhances **career readiness**



Supports **veteran entrepreneurship** through trainings, professional dev, and networking



**STEM-focused ed partnership** (led by NCSU) to enhance research, ed, and innovation

# Roadmap

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1

## Our Strategic Commitment to NC Military

- Growing Military Enrollment
- Expanding Military Partnerships

2

## Serving Our NC Military-Affiliated Family

- Federal Initiatives
- State Initiatives
- System Initiatives
- Institutional Initiatives



# Serving our NC Military Family

## Federal Initiatives: Pathfinder Airborne

**What:** US Congressional funding through DoD to support applied research of **soldier-led innovations**

**\$21 million**

**To North Carolina**  
(funding FY21-24)

**\$15 million**

**To UNC System Institutions**  
5 UNC institutions (22 projects)

### NC Military Partners



XVIII Airborne  
Corps



82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne  
Div



US Army Reserve  
Command



US Army Special Operations  
Command

### UNC Institutions



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL



**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Federal Initiatives: Pathfinder Projects

## Air-Dropped Blood Assessment



ECU Dept of Technology Systems  
- with professors in physiology,  
chemistry, and biology- **assess  
air-dropped blood** to service  
members wounded in battle.



## Unmanned Aerial System "Handshake"



NCA&T research-led effort to  
develop **drone transponder** to  
determine if drones encountered  
in combat are "friendly."



## Airborne Planning



College of Engineering &  
Technology supports **complex  
database development** to help  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div with planning  
and executing airdrop missions  
and post-drop reporting.<sup>1</sup>



# Federal Initiatives: Pathfinder Projects (cont'd)

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## Additive Manufactured Drones



NCSU research-led effort aimed at testing boundaries of what can be created for a **3D printed drone**.

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

## Countering Active Protection Systems



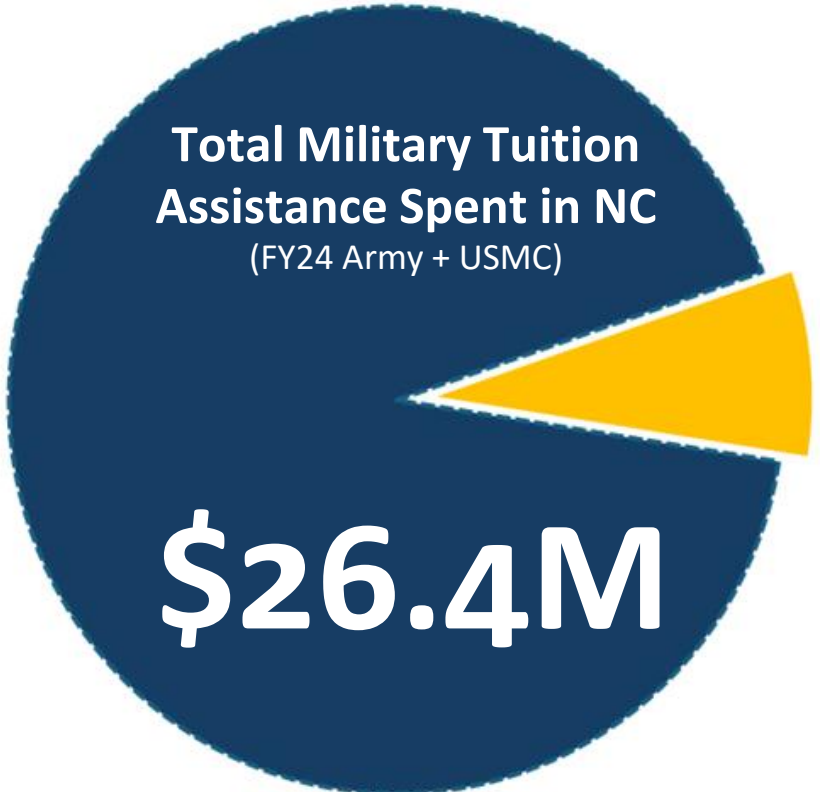
UNCC efforts to utilize imaging technologies to defeat battlefield obscurants.



# State Initiatives: Military Tuition Assistance

Request to NC General Assembly to grant flexibility for UNC institutions to discount tuition for service members using military Tuition Assistance (TA).

### Market Opportunity



**\$2.2M**  
Amount of Military TA that went to UNC System schools  
(FY24 Army + USMC)

**\$24.2M**  
Spent at Out-of-State/  
Other Institutions

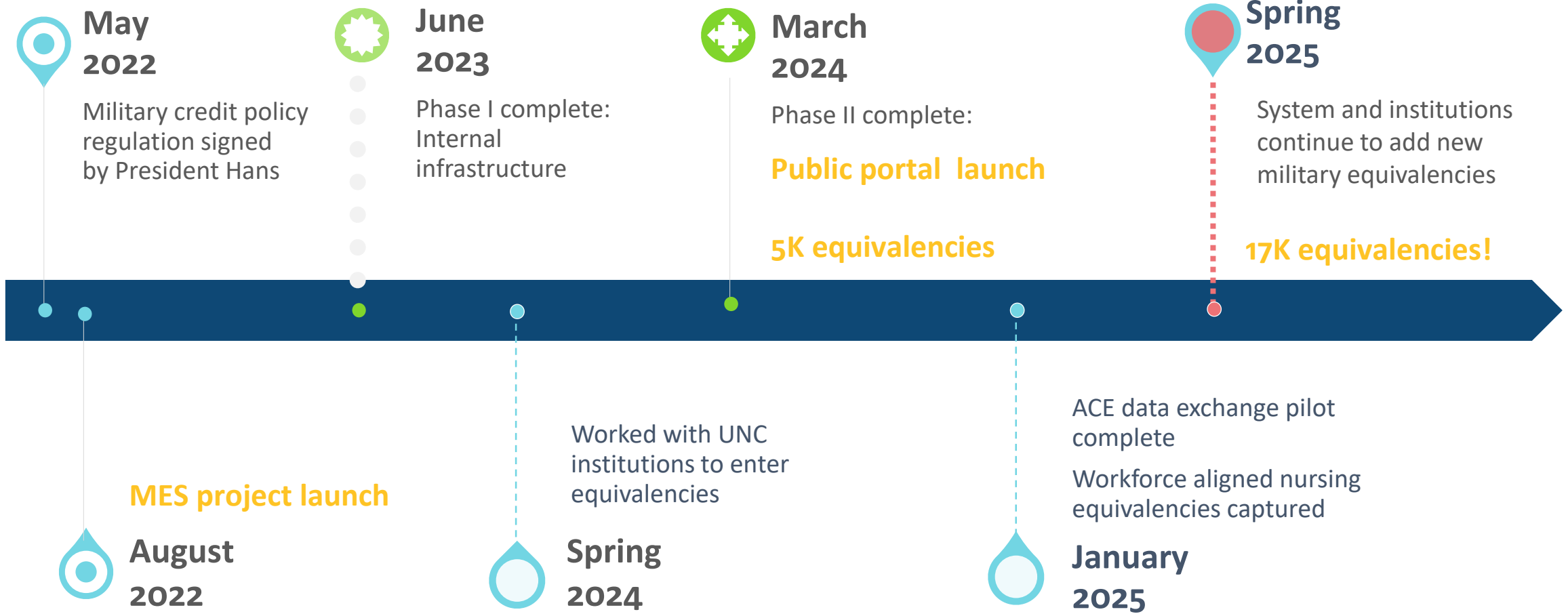
**91.5%**

Of Army and Marine Corps TA spent on service members **living in NC** to **non-UNC System** institutions

HB 373  
UNC Tuition Discounts for Certain Students  
filed March 11, 2025



# System Initiatives: UNC Military Equivalency System (MES)



# System Initiatives: UNC Military Equivalency System (MES)

UNC Military Equivalency System is a national pace setter

## What Makes UNC System MES Unique?



### System-Wide Approach

One of a handful of states that has developed a system-wide military credit articulation tool. Coordinated approach helps provide transparency and consistency for institutional equivalencies.



### Advanced Equivalency Capture

UNC MES moves beyond other MES-like systems by capturing occupational levels and course versions (improves accuracy of credit awarded for equivalencies)



### Access to ACE Equivalencies

UNC System partnership with American Council of Ed ("ACE") provides direct access to ACE's military guide data set (fast-cycling MES build out)



## Credit Mobility Strategies in Action

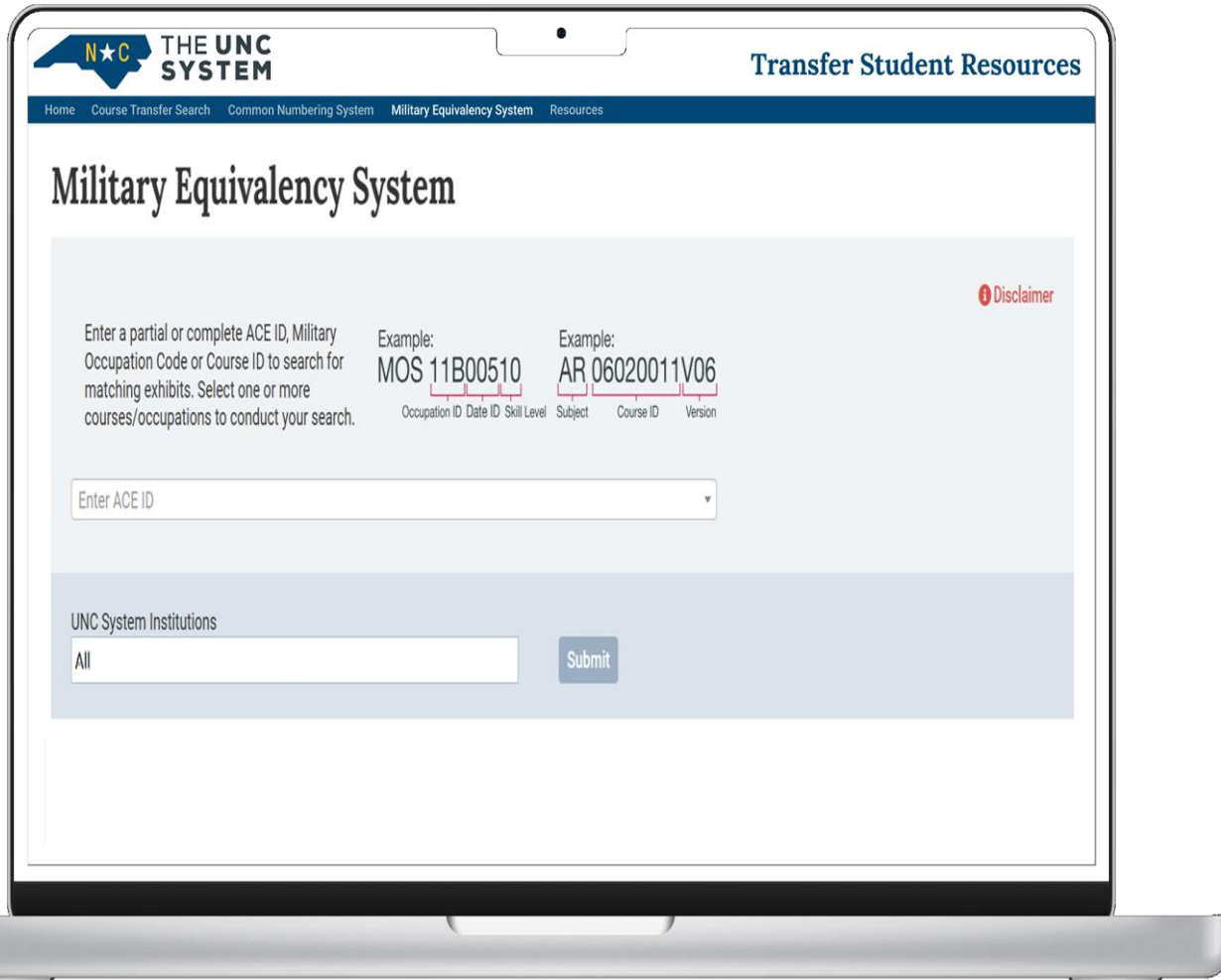
A Case Study Report on State, System, and Institutional Efforts to Smooth the Path to a College Degree for Mobile Students

Kyle Gray  
Betsy Mueller  
Emily Tichenor  
Madeline Trimble  
February 27, 2025



ITHAKA SR

# System Initiatives: UNC Military Equivalency System (MES)



## MES: Future Roadmap

### USER EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS



**JST Automation:** AI-enabled upload of Joint Services Transcript



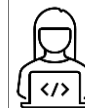
**Ease of Access:** Utilize QR code to increase visibility and access to MES

### EXPANDING EQUIVALENCIES



**Workforce-Aligned Faculty Panels:** Convene faculty panels on high workforce need equivalencies (Computer Sci, Cybersecurity, Nursing)

### BACK-END INFRASTRUCTURE



**Admin Portal:** Develop portal for use by registrars to manage potential new military equivalencies

# Institution Initiatives: Serving Military-Affiliated Students

## Ensuring Consistent Mental Health Support

Mental health and suicide prevention training

Hosting monthly meetings with staff who work with military-affiliated students.

Educating staff about the specific needs of military-affiliated students



Mental Health  
FIRST AID

**GREEN★ZONE**



# Institution Initiatives: Serving Military-Affiliated Students

**Making Our System More Military Friendly**

Strategic partnerships between campuses and NC military installations

Policies that encourage applicants to choose our schools



*FSU Chancellor Allison and Lt Gen Anderson sign FSU-XVIII Airborne Corps Education Partnership (Feb 2025)*



*Fort Bragg military delegation visits UNCC to explore strengthening defense research ties (Feb 2025)*



*Appalachian State's Frontline to Farm program helps NC Veterans begin careers in sustainable agriculture (June 2025)*

QUESTIONS?