



# State of North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtride, Jr., Secretary

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## *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

For Additional Information Contact:

Chris Mears, Public Information Officer  
Office: 919-807-2340  
Cell: 919-414-4327  
chris.mears@doa.nc.gov  
twitter: @ncdoa / facebook.com/ncdoa

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### NC Division of Veterans Affairs Published its Annual Report 2013 on Veterans

RALEIGH, NC - March 6, 2014

The North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA) released their [Annual Report 2013](#) today under the guidance of Secretary of Administration Bill Daughtride and North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory. The NCDVA has undertaken the important mission of “*Working to Make North Carolina the State of Choice for Veterans.*”

The report compiles veteran statistics for North Carolina and reveals how NC ranks nationally compared to other states. For example, NC’s veteran population totals 771,654 and ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the country, and yet NC ranks 6<sup>th</sup> nationally with female veterans. Also noteworthy is NC’s success in working with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to secure compensation and pension claims for its veterans: NC ranks 4<sup>th</sup> nationally just behind California, Texas and Florida, all are states that have twice as many veterans as NC. The report also breaks down the VA’s investment by state, county and congressional district levels. Furthermore, the report which contains data going back 10 years, describes NCDVA’s structure and its performance which sets a benchmark to track changes and future trends. Future editions of NCDVA’s annual report will track metrics for employment, education, wellness, and the newly opened veterans courts in conjunction with all of our partner agencies.

“The question of ‘how can we better serve our veterans’ can only be answered when we have an accurate picture of where we stand given the available data,” said Ilario Pantano, Director of the NCDVA. “This Annual Report 2013 is our first effort to begin benchmarking performance as NCDVA works harder to cut red-tape and maximize efficiencies with all partners that support our treasured veterans. It shows us the places where we are leading the nation and identifies our opportunities to better serve a population of heroes that account for \$6.36 billion in federal money invested directly into the State.”

In accordance with its mission, NCDVA launched an agency-wide effort to streamline and enhance the service offerings for veterans while simultaneously becoming more transparent, data driven, and accountable to veterans, their family members and North Carolina’s citizens.

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“Caring for our warriors is personal for our team at NCDVA. Most of us are veterans ourselves. The 800,000 vets we serve are near and dear to us. They are names, faces, stories and friends, living heartbreaks and triumphs in the defense of our nation. Veterans are committed patriots that have willingly chosen to sacrifice their lives for their fellow citizens,” said Ilario Pantano. “There is no greater love than that.”

NCDVA welcomes your feedback as we work together to make North Carolina the veterans’ “*State of Choice*.” For more information or to reach NCDVA, please contact Director Ilario Pantano at [Ilario.pantano@doa.nc.gov](mailto:Ilario.pantano@doa.nc.gov) or by phone at 844-NC4-VETS.

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