



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**President Nez provides veterans update to the  
Health, Education, and Human Services Committee**



**PHOTO:** Newly appointed Navajo Veterans Administration Acting Director James D. Zwierlein addresses the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee in Window Rock, Ariz. on July 1, 2019.

**WINDOW ROCK** — On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez presented to the members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council's Health, Education, and Human Services Committee on issues related to services provided by the Navajo Veterans Administration. The committee serves as the oversight authority for veterans' issues, in accordance with the authorities outlined in Title II of the Navajo Nation Code.

Among the issues discussed included the Navajo veterans housing program, Navajo Veterans Trust Fund, mental health services for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and veterans' benefits.

"We understand that our veterans have concerns over the services provided through the Navajo Veterans Administration and we're continuing to address these issues," said President Nez.

During the report, President Nez also took the opportunity to introduce the new Navajo Veterans Administration acting director James D. Zwierlein, who was appointed by President Nez and Vice President Lizer following the resignation of former director John I. King, who cited the need to spend more time with his family in his resignation notice.

"With Mr. Zwierlein's military background and knowledge of issues that impact Navajo veterans, we are confident that he will work with federal and state agencies and Navajo veterans' organizations to help our veterans on the Navajo Nation," added President Nez.

Prior to his appointment, Zwierlein served as an Executive Staff Assistant with the Office of the President and Vice President and was assigned to work on housing issues, which included veterans housing. Zwierlein was honorably discharged in 2011 after approximately 15 years of service in various capacities in the Marine Corps, which includes serving as a liaison to members of the Intelligence Oversight Committee, as an Operations Chief with the 11<sup>th</sup> Marine Artillery Regiment in which he managed and coordinated nation building projects in Afghanistan to rebuild and stabilize local economies. He also served as a project manager at Camp Las Pulgas, where he managed the construction of several new facilities for Marine and Navy personnel.

Following his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, he served as the operations manager for a residential construction company, to create the company's strategic plans to build homes and generate a highly-skilled workforce using local labor forces.

President Nez added that Zwierlein's military, management, and housing development experience will make it an easier transition and a good fit to assume the ongoing duties and initiatives in his new position as the acting Director of the Navajo Veterans Administration.

Among other responsibilities, President Nez and Vice President Lizer are tasking Zwierlein with implementing a housing manufacturing facility on the Navajo Nation to construct and deliver homes for Navajo veterans as part of the veterans housing program.

"Since Mr. Zwierlein began working with the Office of the President and Vice President, he's proven to be a hard worker and a go-getter," said Vice President Lizer. "We're confident he will serve our Nation well in his new role."

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