



**GWG Meeting
August 27, 2015
Short Bios**

Tammy Lester is currently Data Analyst with the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD). She provides data analysis for the AccessNC website which has economic, demographic, and business applications. LEAD is dedicated to supporting the growth of the state's economy through the provision of accurate, timely labor and economic data, research, economic modeling, and information. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Baylor University and a Master's in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin. Her father, Harry Roy, was a transport pilot with the 82nd Airborne in World War II.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Forsythe currently serves in the Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff as the Director-South/Community Integration for the Chairman's Office of Reintegration. He is a native of Raleigh and holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and four Master's Degrees—from the University of South Carolina, Long Island University, the United States Naval War College, and the Senior Service College of the Eisenhower School. After graduation from the War College, he assumed command of the 82nd Financial Management Company (82nd FMCo) at Ft. Bragg. The 82nd FMCo successfully deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where it served with distinction for over 14 months as the first modular FMCo. to replace a legacy Finance Battalion and subsequently command and control seven finance detachments supporting combat and support operations in MND-N and MNF-W. Upon relinquishing command, LTC Forsythe served as the G8/Resource Management Officer for the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (Airborne). He then commanded the Columbia Recruiting Battalion responsible for the mission of recruiting qualified applicants to serve in both the Regular Army and Army Reserves. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Australian Jump Wings, Canadian Jump Wings, German Jump Wings and Dutch Jump Wings.

Amber Alexander is the American Red Cross Liaison to the NC National Guard. She started her journey with the American Red Cross thirty-nine years ago in 1976 as a youth volunteer, a candy striper, at Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg. Ms. Alexander has served as both Hospital Chairman and Assistant Station Manager at Fort Bragg. Under her leadership, Service to the Armed Forces consistently provides high quality, cost-efficient programs and services to our military, veterans, and military families worldwide. She has been named a Service Delivery Champion and In March of 2014, she was awarded the American Red Cross "*Spirit of Excellence*" award.

Carol Sharpe is the alumni manager for the Wounded Warrior Project in NC and SC. The mission of Wounded Warrior Project is to "Honor and Empower Wounded Warriors." Ms. Sharpe has worked for the Wounded Warrior Project for 3 years. Prior to her work with the WWP, she was the assistant manager at the USO Warrior Center in Germany and was a middle school special education teacher. Her husband is retired Air Force.

John Falkenbury was appointed as President and COO for USO of NC in March 2009. He is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the operations of the state headquarters, five USO fixed centers, and a mobile center in the areas in and surrounding Jacksonville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, and Raleigh-Durham. These base and airport centers provide a full range of services including critical resiliency, transition assistance, financial literacy, and children's educational programs; Travel Assistance; deployment and homecoming operations; internet and video link

access; military and civilian community outreach programs; Fallen and Wounded Warrior escort services; Holiday feasts; and extensive morale-boosting activities. With over 35 years' experience in demanding corporate and military environments, Mr. Falkenbury has successfully created business growth and operational successes through sound business management, organized strategic communications and marketing, and motivational leadership. Mr. Falkenbury served over twenty years in the U.S. Army.