



National Commission on the Future of the Army



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Commission on the Future of the Army Wraps Up Two-Day Visit to California

The National Commission of the Future of the Army (NCFA) completed two days of meetings in California as part of its congressionally-mandated mission. Commissioners Gen. (Ret.) Carter Ham, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Raymond Chandler, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Stultz and Honorable Robert Hale spent Monday at the National Training Center (NTC) where they received briefings from the 40th ID of the California National Guard and the 116th Brigade Combat Team, observed combined arms training, and participated in a roundtable to hear from Guard and Reserve leaders on NTC preparation and execution.

The NTC visit and circulation to several forward operating bases allowed the commissioners to assess the value of allocating Reserve Component forces to this type of fully integrated live, virtual, and constructive training. "As we evaluate force mix and the impact of risk, our Combined Arms Training Centers could not be more critical to that analysis," said Commissioner Ham. "Joint, multi-component, and multi-national training support of the National Training Center (NTC) are all part of the equation."

Tuesday morning the Commission held an open meeting in Long Beach and heard statements from a host of interested parties, including U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D, 47th/CA), community leaders, and former military. Comments covered a variety of topics, from finding ways to share certification opportunities between Reserve Component Soldiers and Employers to the impact of continuing resolution, understanding the Reserve Component mobilization process, tiered readiness utilization, shared civilian-acquired skills, and recruitment and retention challenges.

That afternoon, the commissioners moved to Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos for briefs and demonstrations by the senior leadership of 79th Sustainment Support Command (SSC), U.S. Army Reserve, and 40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard. At a roundtable discussion, the Adjutants General of Utah, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, and California, Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, provided insights into innovative options benefitting reserve component units, such as revamping the training management system, blending units with other service components, and increasing the accessibility to certain monies.

Given the restrictions on time, reserve components are challenged to overcome steep requirements of maintaining training, logistics, and administrative levels. "Speaking with the leadership teams and command staff of the 79th SSC and the 40th ID shed light on how current full time support levels are critical to a sustainable readiness model in our Reserve and National Guard units," said Commissioner Bob Hale.

The NCFA has been charged by Congress to examine the structure of the Army and policy assumptions related to the size and force mix. The Commission will make recommendations on modifications to the structure of the Army based on anticipated mission requirements and acceptable levels of national risk, consistent with available and anticipated future resources. The Commission will also specifically examine the transfer of Army National Guard AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the Army National Guard to the Regular Army. The Commission will issue its report no later than February 1, 2016.

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