



National Commission on the Future of the Army

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA), Operational Sub-Committee Engagement with Defense Attaché Australia Embassy Minutes

Date: 20 August 2015

Time: 1400-1500 hours

Location: Australian Embassy, 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

Format: Information gathering meeting with senior allied official

Attendees:

COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS:

HON Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Commissioner

Mr. Scott Sharp, NCFA staff

MAJ Vinson Morris, Operational Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA PARTICIPANTS:

Brigadier General David Creagh, Defense Attaché, Embassy of Australia,

Ms. Sheridan Kearnan Minister-Counselor (Defence Policy)

Dr. Michael Lankowski is First Secretary (Defence Strategic Policy)

Documents Submitted to Commission: None

Meeting Summary

The Commission continues to meet with allied and partner nations to capture their perspectives as the United States balances the size and mix of the Army and resources. The Commission is cognizant that U.S. security interests and those of its partners and allies are often linked. Engaging key allies to understand their perspectives in balancing national security risk in light of declining defense is an important element of the Commission's deliberative effort.

Dr. Hicks opened the meeting at 1400 hours by explaining the Commission's responsibilities. The DFO explained the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provisions governing the Commission's work. The following topics were then discussed:

1. The importance of cooperation from allied and partner forces in the global security was emphasized. Australia is concerned about the current size of the US Army and eventual end strength coupled with the broad nature of future US Army missions.

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2. The Australian Army wants to be relevant and interoperable with US forces. Given the size of Australian forces, they have to be positioned to fight as a part of a joint and multinational force with the US. With this in mind, they would like more opportunities to exchange personnel with the US Army, where Soldiers from one army serve a tour in the other army.
3. US capabilities of particular interest to Australia: Theater level enablers including fixed wing and vertical lift assets; armored vehicles; mission command capabilities; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities with associated Intelligence network assets; Air Defense Artillery; and logistics. Australia is attempting to grow its internal Cyberspace and Intelligence capabilities.

Brigadier General Creagh is open to subsequent discussions to ensure the Commission has any information required.

The meeting adjourned at 1500 hours.