



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: Minutes from the Aviation Subcommittee Meeting 16 and 17 Sep 15

Date: 16 and 17 September 2015

Location: 2530 Crystal Drive, Taylor Building, 5th Floor, Arlington, VA

Format: Classified and unclassified discussion; unclassified briefings

Attendees:

Commissioner Robert F. Hale, Aviation Subcommittee Chairman
Commissioner Thomas R. Lamont, Aviation Subcommittee Member
Commissioner Larry R. Ellis, Aviation Subcommittee Member
Commissioner James D. Thurman, Aviation Subcommittee Member
Mr. Don Tison, Commission Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
MG (Ret) Ray Carpenter, NCFA Executive Director
Mr. Rickey Smith, NCFA Staff Director
COL Shane Story, NCFA Staff
LTC Steve Pierce, NCFA Staff, Aviation Subcommittee Co-Lead
LTC Gregory Hartvigsen, NCFA Staff, Aviation Subcommittee Co-Lead
LTC Brian Stevenson, NCFA Staff
CPT Sarah Moore, NCFA Staff
Mr. Anthony Boyda, NCFA Staff
Mr. Josh Klimas, RAND Cost Analyst
Mr. Mark Pizzuto, Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (SDFO)

Documents Submitted to Commission: (1) Aviation Restructuring Initiative (ARI) Impacts on Army National Guard by State brief and (2) Army Fixed-Wing Associate Aerial ISR brief.

Meeting Summaries

16 September 2015

The Subcommittee Chairman called the meeting to order at 0805 Hours. Only subcommittee members and NCFA staff attended this morning session. The SDFO reminded attendees that all Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provisions still applied. There were no guest speakers for this portion of the Aviation Subcommittee meeting. The Commissioners discussed ARI plan, the NGB proposal, and other options under feasibility review, including the classified force sufficiency analysis.

Commissioners and NCFA Staff discussed information presented in previous meetings and further refined data requirements needed to better understand details of all options available to them. The NCFA Staff Director and DFO led a discussion about

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approaches for drafting and staffing the Aviation Subcommittee output for the full Commission and final report so as to remain in compliance with all applicable FACA requirements.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the classified and unclassified information the Subcommittee Chairman would present to the full Commission in a closed meeting later that afternoon.

The Subcommittee Chairman reviewed the slide titled "Aviation Subcommittee Criteria for Assessing Alternatives" he would use to update the full Commission during the open meeting the following day, 17 Sep 15. The 16 Sep 15 portion of the Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 0900 hours for the day with a reminder that the Subcommittee would reconvene the following day at the same location.

17 September 2015

The SDFO called the meeting back to order at 1330 hours by reviewing the requirements of the FACA with those in attendance. Subcommittee Chairman made opening remarks. In addition to NCFA personnel, subject matter experts from the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Aviation Directorate and HQDA G-3/5/7 Aviation Directorate attended this portion of the meeting: COL J. Ray Davis, NGB Aviation Directorate and COL John Lindsay, HQDA G-3/5/7 Aviation Directorate.

The first topic was the ARI execution plan developed by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) at the Secretary of the Army's request. COL Davis provided an information brief entitled "ARI Impacts on Army National Guard by State." He detailed impacts in terms of personnel and equipment gains and losses (overall and by State) and major force structure changes and moves involved to implement ARI within the Army National Guard ARNG). Questions asked by the Commissioners were primarily focused on capabilities the ARNG would lose that could be needed by the Army as a whole. Commissioners asked multiple questions about proposed force structure changes to National Guard air traffic services units, such as Airfield Operations Battalions (AOB).

The second information brief of the afternoon was a joint brief by COL Lindsay and COL Davis on the subject of Army fixed-wing multi-component initiatives. As background information, the briefing detailed why the US Air Force adopted the associate unit model and the different types of associate units used by the US Air Force. The briefers presented the problem of supply and demand for capabilities facing Army aerial Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and how the Army designed an associate (multi-component) unit that would most effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the ISR community. The session highlighted one of the areas where HQDA and the NGB are working together to develop solutions to complex problems facing the Army. Their initiative will increase aerial ISR capability by approximately 30 percent without increasing costs. Commissioners were interested in the associate unit concept and asked questions relating to parts of the Army fixed-wing initiative that could be applied to rotary-wing units.

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The Aviation Subcommittee Chair thanked the briefers for their work and indicated they should expect continued dialogue and possible requests for further information in the future. The briefers were dismissed from the discussion at 1500 Hours.

The subcommittee concluded the meeting by discussing the information they had just received, and also discussed a general timeline for the Commission meetings scheduled for October 21 and 22, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 1530 hours.