



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) Minutes from Engagement - 3 JUN 15, NCFA interaction with LtGen (retired) Dennis McCarthy

Date: 3 June 2015

Time: 1000 – 1055 hrs.

Location: telephone conversation

Format: Open discussion

Attendees:

LtGen (ret) Dennis McCarthy, former Chairman, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force (NCSAF)

GEN (R) Carter Ham, Chair, NCFA

Mr. Don Tison – Designated Federal Officer

Mr. Rickey Smith – NCFA Staff Director

Documents Submitted to Commission: None

Meeting Summary

An aggregated summary of the meeting follows:

DFO explained the Federal Advisory Committee Act provisions. LtGen McCarthy explained he was speaking as a private citizen and not representing the NCSAF.

NCFA Chair asked about the dynamics of conducting a national commission dealing with the future of an armed service. LtGen McCarthy's key points follow:

- Good to seek unanimous agreement; consider things that are not unanimous as “alternative views” instead of “dissenting views”; wait until late in the process to seek those views and positions, but do not recommended voting
- Closed meetings are key for classified discussions; do not let any speaker dominate a meeting
- Office calls with Chairman and Ranking minority member from Authorization Committees were adequate; let the commission staff do most engagement and interaction with Congressional staff
- Plan for the report roll out in advance; use a public event and schedule small group engagements throughout DoD and Congress; expect some number of Congressional hearings where Commissioners are called for testimony
- Information gathering sessions with wide variety of organizations helps (e.g. associations, Governors Council, etc.); invite Governors to public meetings

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 4 JUN 15, NCFA interaction with Deputy Secretary of Defense

- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) presents challenges for preparing final report
- Commit to an open and transparent process
- Commit to final report outline early; hold firm on delivery date of final report
- Ideas and proposals need to be assessed against same standards

The meeting closed with LtGen McCarthy offering to discuss process any time.