



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) Staff Germany Site Visits
30 July 2015

Date: July 30, 2015

Time: 0900-1600hrs

Locations: Sembach, Wiesbaden, and Illesheim Germany

Format: Command and staff briefings; round table discussions

Attendees:

NCFA Staff Group A

NCFA Executive Director – MG Raymond W. Carpenter (ARNGUS, Ret)

COL Kristen Dixon – NCFA Staff

Mr. Andrew Feickert – NCFA Staff

LTC Timothy Palmer – NCFA Staff

LTC Brian Stevenson – NCFA Staff

NCFA Staff Group B

CPT Sarah Moore – NCFA Staff

Mr. Scott Sharp – NCFA Staff

LTC Sean Spence – NCFA Staff

Documents Submitted to Commission: (1) 4/3 Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) Brief; (2) European Regional Health Command (ERHC) Brief

Meeting Summary

NCFA Staff Group A met with LTC Schulke, Executive Officer, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), at the ERHC Headquarters building in Sembach Germany.

At 0900, the MG (R) Carpenter provided opening remarks and applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act for all NCFA activities including discussions with NCFA staff.

LTC Schulke noted 10th AAMDC difficulties in meeting some commitments. Command has only one Patriot Battalion – 5/7 Air Defense Artillery (ADA). While other Patriot Battalions in the Army have more Patriot Batteries and Mission Command Elements, 5/7 ADA has fewer of each. There are no Patriot units in the Army Reserve Components. 10th AAMDC relies on Army National Guard (ARNG) SHORAD units for exercises.

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10th AAMDC also has a number of mission-critical low density Military Occupation Specialties (MOSs), which has an impact on readiness. Personnel Tempo (PERSTEMPO) for these Soldiers is high. The command relies heavily on Warrant Officers for some key technical skills, but they are at 75% of required Warrant Officers across the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) community.

Group A discussion with 10th AAMDC ended at 1000hrs and LTC Schulke departed.

Group A was joined by Commander and staff from the European Regional Health Command (ERHC). Attending were BG Norvell Coots, MD, Commander ERMC and Command Surgeon for USAREUR and the 7th Army; 1LT Daniel Miller, Aide-de-Camp; CSM William O'Neal, ERMC Command Sergeant Major.

At 1005, the MG (R) Carpenter provided opening remarks and explained applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to all NCFA activities.

BG Coots discussed the evolution of the medical command. In 1989, USAREUR had 70 clinics and 10 hospitals to serve 300,000 service members and dependents. In 2015, there are 29 clinics and one hospital to serve 92,000 service members and dependents.

He then explained ERHC role for recent combat operations. ERHC treated 70,000 casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/ Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Many would not have made arrived back to US for medical care without treatment in Germany.

The command supports three Combatant Commands: USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, and USCENTCOM. ERHC is starting to see more patients from Africa. He believes USAFRICOM could use its own dedicated medical support.

For surge purposes, ERHC receives support from two Reserve Component hospitals. The new Rhein Ordnance Medical Center, which will replace Landstuhl Medical Center, is slated to open in 2022. This new center will be located across from Ramstein Air Force Base and will be a little bit smaller than the current Landstuhl Medical Center. Landstuhl Medical Center remains a critical capability for the U.S. until the new facility opens.

The ERHC discussion ended at 1115hrs and Group A shifted to military vans for movement to Wiesbaden Germany for a meeting with 5th Signal Command.

NCFA Staff Group B met with 4/3 Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) at battalion headquarters in Illesheim, Germany. Attending from 4 /3 AHB were LTC Phil Mazingo, Battalion Commander, and 1SG McLeod, acting Command Sergeant Major. MAJ Luke Chivers, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade S3, also attended

At 0930, LTC Spence provided opening remarks and explained applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

LTC Mazingo explained the unit was notified of the rotation mission to Europe in December 2014 and arrived in March 2015. This did not afford the unit much time for planning. Family

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morale was also adversely affected due to the short notice and lack of entitlements.¹ Since this rotation used 179-day temporary duty orders, the unit did not fund Soldiers storing their cars or house hold goods for those that lived in the barracks. Soldiers leaving their possessions in the barracks create physical security and custody issues. Additionally, Soldiers will not be able to retain leave days above the peace time limit as they would have with combat zone deployment.

LTC Mazingo highlighted that the unit is flying twice the amount of hours they expected based on pre-deployment information. The battalion has elements deployed from Illesheim to Latvia, Ukraine, and Romania. The third company remains at Fort Stewart, Georgia, on a Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO).

The battalion is passing lessons learned to the unit that will replace them. 4/3 AHB is revising the training plan for follow on unit with 12th CAB. They anticipate the next unit will experience a 45-day train up after arrival.

LTC Mazingo shared that internal battalion command and control (C2) is stressed. The nine-month deployment is a long time, but provides a great mission set for an aviation unit. Morale remains higher than expected while they fly significantly increased hours, execute challenging, multinational missions. Special leave accrual is an issue. This rotation is not counted as a “deployment” by Human Resources Command. Soldiers will not retain leave, but the unit’s operational tempo and limited manning does not allow a significant portion of Soldiers to take leave.

Group B discussions ended at 1230hrs and the NCFA Staff Group B moved to their hotel to await transport back to U.S.

After arriving in Wiesbaden, NCFA Staff Group A moved to the 5th Signal Command Headquarters. At 1430hrs, MG (R) Carpenter provided opening remarks and explained the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Attending from the 5th Signal Command were COL Jimmie Hall, Commander; CSM Harry Mercado, Command Sergeant Major; and selected 5th Signal Command staff.

COL Hall explained that on September 30, 2017, the 5th Signal Command will become the 5th Signal Brigade. After this transition, the unit will have a staff of only 60 personnel. No other Signal Commands are downsizing to Signal Brigades. The signal footprint has expanded to the Baltics and the Balkans and the Command currently operates in 19 different countries. In short, the unit can meet requirements, but all new units deploying to the USAREUR Area of Operations need to bring their own signal capabilities.

COL Hall further explained that 5th Signal Command is in the process of identifying how to integrate RC signal units into support of missions. The Command does not have any long standing relationships with RC signal units. Additionally, any RC signal support received would

¹ When Soldiers are deployed for unit rotations into OEF and OIF combat operations, funds were provided to store autos and household goods. There are multiple authority and funding means for sending Army units on rotations. Not all rotations equate to a deployment that provides additional funds.

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require a longer term commitment than the current 2-week Annual Training (AT) period used for most RC units, due to the complexity of signal systems and missions.

MG (R) Carpenter noted that the US Army may need different AT model for different specialties instead of the current one-size-fits-all model. He also discussed RC signal support to Joint Multinational Training Center (e.g. signal Observer Controller Trainers) might be an idea worth exploring.

In response to Mr. Feickert's question, COL Hall noted that USAF does not have signal assets in Europe that operate at the tactical land force level.

The NCFA staff discussion with 5th Signal Command ended at 1545hrs. Group A staff moved to their hotel to await transport back to the U.S.