



National Commission on the Future of the Army



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National Commission on the Future of the Army Wraps Up Two-Day Visit to Texas

The National Commission of the Future of the Army (NCFA) completed two days of meetings in Texas as part of its congressionally-mandated mission. Commissioners visited Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve units throughout the Fort Hood, Austin, and Houston areas, as well as meeting with Governor Abbott and Texas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John Nichols. During their visit, commissioners received overviews on training, maintenance, aircraft, the Texas National Guard, Grey Eagle, and reserve aviation units.

Commission Vice Chairman Thomas Lamont said, "Everywhere we went the commissioners were very well received and we appreciate meeting with all the Soldiers throughout Texas who were eager to let us know what they think. We are particularly grateful to Governor Abbott for taking time from his busy schedule to meet with us. It was a very productive visit that will greatly assist us in making sure whatever recommendations we put forth are grounded in fact."

Yesterday afternoon the Commission held an open meeting in Killeen to hear from members of the public. There was a strong turnout, with about 150 people in attendance. Six commissioners heard statements from a host of interested parties, including congressional offices, community leaders, and former military.

The Acting Chairman for the open meeting was GEN (R) J.D. Thurman, a Texas resident. Thurman said, "Texas has a large Total Army footprint and so was a natural choice for an open meeting. The strong turnout and thoughtful comments we heard reflect the keen interest this community has in Fort Hood as well as the Army National Guard and Army Reserve units throughout Texas. The witnesses were well-informed and engaged, and gave us a lot to think about. I want to thank everyone who took the time to come talk to us."

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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