



National Commission on the Future of the Army



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Commission on the Future of the Army Holds Third DC-Area Public Hearing

The National Commission of the Future of the Army (NCFA) this morning held its third public hearing, with all eight commissioners present. The Commission began the session with updates on recent site visits to Maryland and Texas and the work of the five subcommittees (Drafting, Aviation, Institutional, Force Generation, and Operational), in the process voting to approve a draft outline for the Commission's final report.

The commissioners then took testimony from the Honorable Deb Wada, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, retired Marine Corps Major General Arnold Punaro, CEO of The Punaro Group, and Mr. Ben Banchs of the Laborers International Union of North America.

During the session, commissioners and witnesses discussed a wide range of issues, including recruiting and retention, Army civilian morale, the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army program, access and utilization of National Guard and Army Reserve forces, BOG:DWELL ratios, integration of all Army components, cost of Active vs. Reserve Components, options for active duty Apache pilots in reserve elements, the Aviation Restructure Initiative, and budgetary challenges.

Commission Chairman General (R) Carter Ham remarked, "The Commission is making important progress in coming to grips with these very complex subjects. With each site visit and meeting our knowledge and understanding grows. The staff has done an excellent job in preparing sessions like today's and I want to thank all of the very impressive witnesses for sharing their views."

Commission Vice Chairman Tom Lamont added, "Today's presenters were very informative and gave us plenty to think about. This has been a very gratifying experience in that we've had the opportunity to hear from such a large and divergent group of people who are all interested in doing what's best for our Army. I am confident that in the end we will produce a report that is thoughtful and well-received."

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 current and anticipated mission requirements and acceptable levels of national risk, consistent with anticipated 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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Contact:

Joe Eule (o) 571-256-2643, joseph.eule@ncfa.ncr.gov