

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

Subject: Site Visit with North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR) minutes

Date: 10 June 2015

Time: 1130-1530

Locations: North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), Raleigh, NC and 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR) Headquarters, Knightdale, NC

Attendees:

Commissioner Carter F. Ham, Commission Chairman
Commissioner Thomas R. Lamont, Commission Vice Chairman
Commissioner Robert F. Hale
Commissioner Jack C. Stultz
Mr. Don Tison, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
MG (Ret) Ray Carpenter, NCFA Executive Director
COL Richard Miller, NCFA Staff
Mr. Kerry Schindler, NCFA Staff
LTC Brian Rice, NCFA Staff

Documents Submitted to Commission:

1. NC JFHQ: unclassified unit brief and handouts
2. MG Lusk statement to NCFA
3. MG Robert Livingston, Jr. statement to NCFA
4. MG Glenn Curtis statement to NCFA
5. 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR): unclassified unit brief

Meeting Summaries

1. NC JFHQ. MG Gregory Lusk, Adjutant General, North Carolina; MG Robert Livingston, Jr., Adjutant General, South Carolina ARNG; MG Glenn Curtis, Adjutant General, Louisiana; MGen (Ret, USMC) Cornell Wilson, Jr., NC Military Affairs Advisor; CSM John Swart, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, North Carolina; CW5 James Herring, Command Chief Warrant Officer, North Carolina ARNG; COL Jeff Copeland, Commander, 449th Theater Aviation Brigade; COL Bernard Williford, Commander, 113th Sustainment Brigade; COL Ephraim Grubbs, Commander, 60th Troop Command; COL Luke Burnett, Commander, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

At 1130hrs, Mr. Tison engaged with the unit leaders and explained his role as the DFO and the applicability of FACA to this engagement. Leaders of the North Carolina National Guard at the NC JFHQ began discussing their units' successes and

Subject: Site Visit with North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR) minutes

challenges. Unit leaders stated that the Secretary of Defense policy on 12 month mobilization time needs to change because it is too restrictive. Unit commanders would like more flexibility during deployments.

When discussing deployments, unit leaders stated that the number one issue is post-mobilization certification. Units had to recertify tasks at post-mobilization training stations that they had completed during pre-mobilization training at home station. Unit leaders recommended establishment of a policy that addresses the redundancies in mobilization training. An example given was a Soldier deployed four times and all four times the training was different and the unit was required to go through multiple validations at different stations that did not make sense. They stated that no validation period was the same and recommended a standard be established. They also noted that FORSCOM states the ARNG takes a long time to mobilize, but that the unit is not the issue, the validation process is the major hurdle. They stated that if the validation process is fixed that the days it takes to get a unit out the door will be reduced dramatically.

General Officers also recommended that TAGs be allowed to participate in the planning/policy making to mitigate the conflicts within the Army. They also stated that the ARNG needs a TTHS "like" account to manage its strength and ultimately its readiness. Unit leaders asked the Commissioners to explore the idea of an ARNG unit that has an AC round-out unit. The final discussion focused on resourcing of Full Time Support (FTS). Leaders stated that reduced FTS funding means that some administrative tasks must be completed during a limited number of training days and how that causes competing demands with collective level unit training.

2. 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR). CPT Kofi Adih, Plans Officer, 518th Sustainment Brigade; CPT Joseph Gorgacz, Engineer Officer, 518th Sustainment Brigade; SSG Breann Williamson, Signal Support Specialist, 492nd Signal Company; SGT James Warren, Supply Sergeant, 492nd Signal Company; 1LT Michael Ashburn, Commander, 1006th Quartermaster Company; 2LT Esponinisa Eatmon, Platoon Leader, 1006th Quartermaster Company; SFC John Evers, Food Service Specialist, 1006th Quartermaster Company; SGT Jamason Campbell, Motor Transport Operator, 1006th Quartermaster Company; SGT Shamari Carmen, Automated Logistical Specialist, 1006th Quartermaster Company; SPC Stephanie Lanham, Human Resources Specialist, 1006th Quartermaster Company.

At 13500hrs, the Commissioners, DFO, and NCFA Staff moved by van to 518th Sustainment Brigade building, in Knightdale, NC. Mr. Tison engaged with the unit leaders and explained his role as the DFO and the applicability of FACA to this engagement. Afterwards, unit leaders briefed Commissioners on their mission, task organization and operational highlights. They characterized their current Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO) as fast and that they had units in multiple locations. They discussed the unit's upcoming deployment and stated that they were cross-leveling over 100 Soldiers to fill positions prior to deployment. Unit leaders also discussed impacts of reduction of FTS resourcing following the unit's upcoming deployment and stated that the reduction would cause retention issues. Commissioners ended the meeting at

Subject: Site Visit with North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and 518th Sustainment Brigade (USAR) minutes

1530hrs with the Commissioners thanking the unit and commenting that they were impressed with the quality and expertise of the unit members.